Trouble filling networking job vacancies? Users like Scott Miller say forget recruiters and check out trade shows. Page 8

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COMPUTERWORLD

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Online employment sites are jammed with postings, but jobs get lost in the shuffle, says Eli Lilly's Ron Angles

Microsoft eyes server apps

By Sharon Gaudin

IN A SHARP and pragmatic turn that could cut user PC costs, Microsoft Corp. is shifting its application development focus from the desktop to the server.

Microsoft last week released Version 5.0 of its popular Visual Basic development tool with an eye toward creating applications that sit on the server — instead of the client — and helping firms cut the total cost of PC ownership. Visual Basic 5.0 can also build desktop applications.

"[Microsoft is] getting the tools aligned to support an Internet push."
– Evan Quinn, IDC

"You'd have to have your head buried in the sand not to hear the words 'cost of ownership,'" said Judith Hurwitz, president of Hurwitz Group, Inc. in Newton, Mass. "If [Microsoft is] going to continue expanding in the marketplace, they're going to have to expand on the server side. They have to move up the food chain."

The lure of server-based applications is that companies would have to install and maintain only one server application instead of multiple client applications. That is the argument Microsoft rivals Oracle

Visual Basic, page 17

Data theft from the inside. Hacks from the outside. Viruses. Encryption. It's getting crowded under the security umbrella. This week, eavesdrop on an **IS security review.** Learn how to safeguard information assets and fend off viruses. Scope out career paths. Our Special Report starts on page 65.

IS: Point-and-click recruiting falls short

By Julia King

INTERNET RECRUITING, frequently hyped as a silver bullet in today's excruciatingly tight job market, has missed the mark despite its enormous popularity.

As of last month, the number of resumes online hit 1 million, according to Internet Business Network, a consultancy in Mill Valley, Calif., that tracks Internet recruitment statistics. On the flip side, more than 1.2 million openings — about 60% of them IS-related — were posted to 3,500 employment sites on the World Wide Web.

So hiring should be a snap, right?

Wrong. Despite the avalanche of resumes and jobs online, the Internet hasn't been able to deliver on its promise of quickly and cheaply matching experienced information systems professionals with companies desperate to hire them.

Recruiting, page 24

Early users tout NC benefits

By Randy Weston and April Jacobs

EARLY ADOPTERS of network computers find them to be an effective way to wean users off mainframe terminals in favor of thin clients.

They also predict that the emerging class of desktop systems will help the bottom line by letting their companies cut maintenance costs, centralize support and, in some cases, recycle older equipment they otherwise would toss out.

"We were able to keep our investment in PCs from years past," said Karl Gouverneur, director of technology architecture at Uarco, Inc. in Barrington, Ill.

Network computers, page 16

Newly candid IRS has year 2000 fix, mulls outsourcing

By Sharon Machlis

THE LATEST PLAN by the IRS to cope with its well-publicized technology woes would replace some aging systems in the short term and outsource tax return data entry in the long term.

The most pressing problems the Internal Revenue Service faces are that its data-entry systems are so old that replacement parts aren't available and year 2000 compliance for the existing system is impossible.

The agency displayed new

IRS, page 103

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NEWSPAPER

Feeling insecure

Several years ago, my company was the victim of an embarrassing and expensive phone phreak attack. Hackers broke in to a private branch exchange in New Hampshire and used it to make tens of thousands of dollars worth of international calls. The entrepreneurial felons apparently even ran a small business selling long-distance access via our hijacked switch. The story made *The New York Times*, and we learned about the consequences of inadequate security.

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And we're sending our security problems on the road. Millions of travelers carry laptops that contain access numbers and log-in information. Windows 95 even has a feature that lets you store log-ons and passwords in your dial-up profiles. How convenient for the laptop thief!

We're opening our networks to the outside world. Hybrid internal/external "extranets" give customers (or whomever) access to our core systems. Data travels unencrypted over public networks. As columnist John Gantz pointed out last week in *Computerworld*, electronic commerce is ready to explode. But the best Internet security products of our smartest scientists are still thwarted by 16-year-old hackers from Holland.

This isn't a call for hand-wringing. Distributed networks are a positive step in the evolution of computing. But the risks are mounting, and it's incumbent on IS organizations to be the bad guys in enforcing strict procedures within their companies. The opportunity cost of poor security is just too high.

Paul Gillin, *Editor*
Internet: *paul_gillin@cw.com*

THE FIFTH WAVE
BY RICH TENNANT

E-mail Rich Tennant at thewave@tiac.net

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▶ *Users stand behind plan for seven new Internet categories*

By Mitch Wagner and Stewart Deck

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The proposal could make it easier for Internet users to find information on the Internet and for organizations to proclaim the nature of their businesses online. It could also eliminate the clashes that occur when companies and individuals fight over domain names, some users said.

The new domains would also make it easier for companies to restrict employees' access to some Internet sites.

But the proposal has potential pitfalls, some information systems managers said. Users might find the new domains confusing. And the plan might never catch on if organizations can't be persuaded to use the new top-level domains.

Last week, an industry consortium recommended the new domains (see chart). The consortium, called the International Ad Hoc Committee, is affiliated with the Internet Society, which sets technical standards for the Internet.

THE NAME GAME

In addition to the familiar .com, .edu and .net domains, the plan would add:

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GroupWise upgrade angers users

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Users said they are still waiting for the company to incorporate into GroupWise many of the choicest features of the SoftSolutions Document Management System, a stand-alone application that was melded into GroupWise last year.

GroupWise 5.0 was to be the upgrade path for companies that use SoftSolutions, which Novell picked up in its 1994 acquisition of WordPerfect Corp.

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The enhancements on tap include the ability to store documents on a local hard drive so they are available if the GroupWise Post Office is down, improved integration with other applications and the ability to store documents in native file formats.

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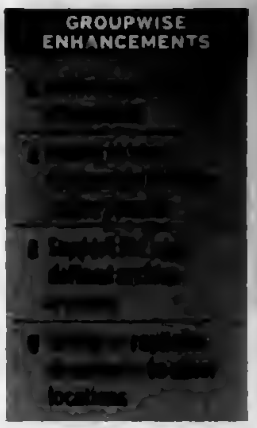

& HP repositions OpenMail to bolster E-mail networks. Page 47

Users give new Intel chip a cool reception

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But corporate users don't appear even close to Intel's high-speed vision. Several said they still use 100-MHz Pentiums on their desktops.

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Intel is likely to first offer the Klamath chip at lower speeds — 233 to 266 MHz — later this year, according to Dean McCarron, an analyst at Mercury Research, Inc. in Phoenix.

"This is going to show up in high-end corporate desktops and in single- or dual-processing server systems," McCarron said. He said pricing is expected to be about $3,000 for a complete system.

IBM plans to pump up data mart suite

By Craig Stedman

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And tools that handle large warehouses are also "still very high-end and expensive," said Theresa Wingfield, an analyst at Giga Information Group in Cambridge, Mass.

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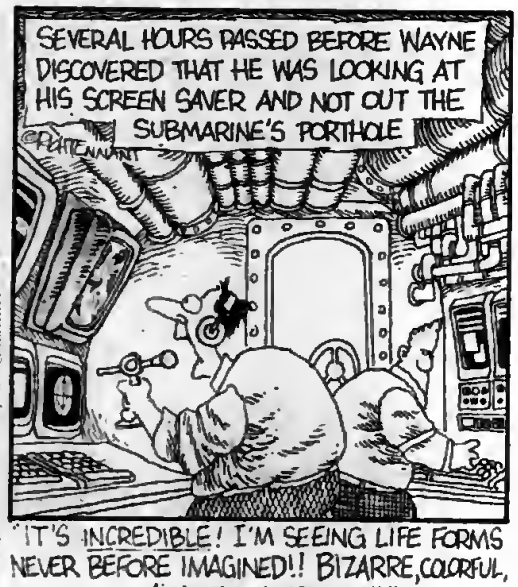

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GROUPWISE ENHANCEMENTS

- Better application integration
- Ability to store documents in their native formats
- Support for user-defined archive location
- Ability to replicate documents to other locations

& HP repositions OpenMail to bolster E-mail networks. Page 47

PENTIUM CHIP PRICING

Speed	Cache	Price
200 MHz	512K	$1,035
166 MHz	512K	$627
200 MHz	256K	$525
180 MHz	256K	$418

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Sequent tackles mighty mainframe

BETA TESTERS such as the National Association of Security Dealers' Sam Laughery say Sequent Computer Systems, Inc.'s new 12-processor NUMA-Q server outpaces the vendor's previous models. But can any Intel-based system — even one that might eventually scale to 252 processors — really compete with mainframes? And can Sequent stay far enough ahead of its competition to justify prices that start at $250,000?

NASD's Sam Laughery also wants fail-over capabilities.

Get the answers from users who have put the machines through their paces. Servers & PCs, page 39

BRAIN BOOSTER: Tools, rules and documentation can save the day when techie gurus take other jobs, Frank Hayes writes, page 43

HELPING HEDGEROWS? Newark, N.J., surveyor Donald Farkas says a GIS network will save the city money. Corporate Strategies, page 57

GIVE THEM A CHANCE: Merrill Lynch's Howard Sargeu explains how to retain the hottest IS talent. Corporate Strategies, page 57

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Telecom reform fails to pay off for users

By Kim Girard

A YEAR AFTER passage of The Telecommunications Deregulation and Reform law, high hopes have been replaced by uncertainty and disappointment.

The law passed Feb. 8, 1996, with the promise that deregulation would bring increased services and lower costs.

Instead, users have seen a stream of carrier lawsuits, internal bickering among the carriers and endless Federal Communications Commission bureaucracy, making true competition seem like a distant promise.

Under the law, local and long-distance companies can compete in each other's markets, along with wireless, cable and utility companies.

NOT MUCH ACCOMPLISHED

But Michael Hewitt, telecommunications asset manager at The Dow Chemical Co. in Midland, Mich., has been underwhelmed by industrywide progress so far, comparing the telecommunications carriers to boxers in a ring.

Carriers "seem to be circling each other without actually doing anything," he said. "They are playing a defensive game rather than an offensive game. They need someone to break the logjam."

Hewitt, who uses AT&T Corp. for voice services and MCI Communications Corp. for data services, said he sees big potential savings from both companies. But that won't happen until the FCC reduces the access fees long-distance companies pay local companies to use their lines.

Hewitt also said he doesn't expect competition to affect Dow's operations for the next year or two. "It seems to be balled up right now with lawsuits," he said.

Carriers don't expect interconnection and access charge issues to be settled for quite a while. A majority of the 400 local exchange regulators and officials surveyed by financial services firm Deloitte & Touche said rules that govern pricing and interconnection rates won't be in place until 1998 or later.

The study said that since the new telecommunications law passed, local carriers have spent more money on marketing campaigns than on new technology. It also said local carriers lag in providing long-distance companies access to their networks.

Laura Ring, executive director at the Massachusetts Telecommunications Council in Boston, said she never expected drastic changes in 1996. Expectations were set too high, she said.

Ring noted that the many mergers initiated last year, including MCI's proposed deal with British Telecommunications PLC and Bell Atlantic Corp.'s planned merger with Nynex Corp., couldn't have happened without the new law. The mergers are expected to result in more bundled service options, a wider variety of services and a single point of contact for service.

WHAT'S AT STAKE

Long-distance market
$75 billion

Local market
$90 billion

Access fees paid by long-distance companies to local companies
About $30B

Portion of each dollar long-distance companies pay RBOCs for local access
45 cents

On the local front, progress has been made, Ring said. By the end of the year, MCI plans to offer switched local service in 31 markets. The company has invested $1 billion in building its own local switched networks and is far ahead of AT&T, which has concentrated its efforts on reselling services on the local loop.

Long-distance carriers blame the regional Bell operating companies (RBOC) for resisting competition on the local level and dragging out negotiations for interconnection agreements. The local carriers contend they are having a hard time understanding what is required by the new law and regulators.

In the meantime, Steven Kitchens, technology manager at First Health Services Corp., just wants less expensive frame relay.

"In the end, it's money making the difference," he said.

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Unix holds high ground against NT

▶ Vendors beef up scalability, target Internet and mainframe replacement

By Jaikumar Vijayan and Laura DiDio

THE HIGH ground Unix holds is getting some fortification.

Recent initiatives from the top Unix vendors are shoring up the operating system on two fronts: by helping to cement Unix's lead in the high-end database and application server markets, and by extending its reach into the emerging Internet, electronic-commerce and mainframe-replacement markets.

New reports from market researchers such as International Data Corp. (IDC), Gartner Group, Inc. and Forrester Research, Inc. all concur that Microsoft Corp.'s Windows NT is mounting a successful assault on Unix workstations and low-end servers. But high-margin, high-end Unix server sales are healthy and so far are immune to NT, the reports said (see story at right).

Microsoft officials have said that the company doesn't expect to have a 64-bit version of Windows NT or have support for scalable clustering for another two years at least.

Meanwhile, "The Unix vendors are taking the 'best defense is a good offense' approach to the enterprise server market by building their value proposition," said James Greene, an analyst at Summit Strategies, Inc. in Boston.

Sun Microsystems, Inc., Hewlett-Packard Co., Silicon Graphics, Inc. (SGI) and Digital Equipment Corp. have all recently announced technologies designed to increase the scalability, reliability and transaction processing capabilities of their Unix platforms (see chart).

Those moves should give Unix a solid three- to five-year technology lead over Windows NT servers, according to 12 users and analysts contacted by *Computerworld*.

"There's no doubt that Unix holds the high ground in the enterprise server wars on every front: 64-bit processing, high-level clustering, zero downtime and excellent scalability," said Neil MacDonald, an analyst at Gartner Group in Stamford, Conn.

Users agreed. They said Unix delivers the goods now

"It's going to take Windows NT at least three years to provide the same level of functionality that Unix offers today," said Dennis Courtney, chief information officer at Dunlop Tire Corp. in Amherst, N.Y. The company has been migrating applications from its mainframes to Unix servers for the past few years.

David Krauthammer, MIS director at Parker Hannifin Corp. in Rohnert Park, Calif., agreed. "Whenever we have a database application or any application that requires high bandwidth and processing capability, Unix is really the only choice available right now," he said.

Superior processing power, proven reliability and unparalleled security are "must have" features for the burgeoning Internet and electronic commerce markets, observers said.

Because Unix fits all those criteria, the high-end server market is growing. After declining in 1995, high-end Unix server sales bounced back and registered a 5% gain last year, according to preliminary 1996 figures from IDC. Similarly, midrange Unix server revenue grew 34%, from $6.7 billion to $9 billion, IDC said.

Underscoring the trend at the high end are recent moves by Sun and SGI to incorporate interconnect technology from supercomputer vendor Cray Research, Inc. into their respective Unix servers.

The interconnect technology allows the vendors to scale their Unix servers significantly beyond current levels. For example, Sun's recently announced UltraEnterprise 1000 scales to 64 processors from a previous high of 30.

Similarly, all the top Unix vendors are following Digital's early lead and moving rapidly to 64-bit architectures with support for performance-boosting features such as Very Large Memory and large file sizes.

GOING ON THE OFFENSIVE

Traditional Unix strengths

- Good scalability
- High availability/reliability
- Manageability

How vendors are building on this

- 64-bit processors and 64-bit operating systems
- Fast, scalable interconnect technologies
- Very Large Memory and large file sizes
- High-performance clustering
- High bandwith I/O technologies

Microsoft nibbles at low end

A recent crop of studies confirms that Unix has a solid hold on the high-end server market and is likely to retain it — at least in the short term.

A recent survey of 1,300 users worldwide conducted Datapro Information Services Group, Inc. in Delran, N.J., found that 31% of existing Unix users plan to expand their crop of high-end Unix servers by the year 2000.

"Unix outperforms Windows NT on the high end. For that reason, we intend to run more Unix applications and also buy more Unix servers," said Barry Flachsbart, vice president of information systems at Skyway Freight Systems, Inc. in Watsonville, Calif.

And a Forrester survey of 50 Fortune 1,000 companies found that 76% of users will buy both Unix and NT over the next two years. But only 13% of the information technology managers surveyed said they believe that NT is ready to handle their most important enterprise applications.

"IT managers said NT can't scale, is immature, unstable and lacks the tools necessary to build high-end systems," said Jon Oltsik, an analyst at Forrester.

Windows NT stars on the low end. It is starting to dominate in the workgroup and departmental server market, and NT server volume is expected to explode from 465,000 units last year to 936,000 units in 1999, according to Forrester.

— Jaikumar Vijayan and Laura DiDio

INTEGRATED APPLICATIONS

Users eye built-in decision support

By Craig Stedman

DIFFERENT PIECES of the decision-support puzzle are increasingly being snapped together into packaged suites.

SAS Institute, Inc. will further the trend this week by shipping a version of its flagship statistical software with a built-in multidimensional database for running complex business queries.

Other vendors are jumping on the same bandwagon. For example, Cognos, Inc. in Ottawa last week said it is buying U.K.-developed business forecasting software that will be combined with its query and analysis tools.

The increasing integration is a step in the right direction, according to several information systems managers who have to buy, install and support multiple point products to serve different kinds of analytical needs.

"Sometimes our users just want canned reports, but there are other times when they'd like to drill down and do some data mining," said Rob Phelps, manager of systems development at Bowman Gray/Baptist Hospital Medical Center, an SAS customer in Winston-Salem, N.C. Doing that from one user interface would help to lower training and support costs, he said.

Until now, the hospital has had to assemble data summaries on the fly for analysis-minded users by pulling raw information from "all these separate data sets with no way to manage the process," Phelps said. The multidimensional database in SAS' new Orlando II software should streamline things by providing a ready-made location for the summaries, he said.

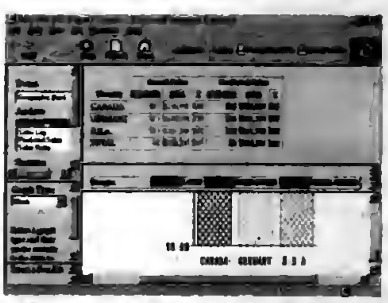
Multidimensional databases let users run complex queries that analyze numerous facets of a subject, such as product sales by region on a quarter-by-quarter basis. Such queries can also be done with standard relational databases, but performance may slow to a crawl, analysts said.

With the database, Orlando II costs $25,000 for a one-year license. The software supports online analytical processing (OLAP), statistical analysis and end-user reporting. SAS, in Cary, N.C., also added a World Wide Web viewer that lets browser-equipped remote users do limited analysis (see photo).

Cognos officials said the forecasting software the company is buying will become an add-on to its query and OLAP tools in six to nine months. Other decision-support vendors, such as Seagate Software in Scotts Valley, Calif., and Business Objects, Inc. in San Jose, Calif., have also announced plans to bundle multiple analysis tools.

Dan Barth, chief information officer at Pinnacle Brands, Inc. in Dallas, said Cognos' plans will save him from having to buy a separate forecasting tool that would require the trading-card maker to maintain two different repositories of decision-support data.

Pinnacle's Cognos-savvy users also won't have to be retrained, Barth added. Pinnacle wants "to be able to forecast things forward rather than just looking back on what happened in the past," he said.



SAS' Orlando II software lets users read canned reports and create basic graphs from a Web browser

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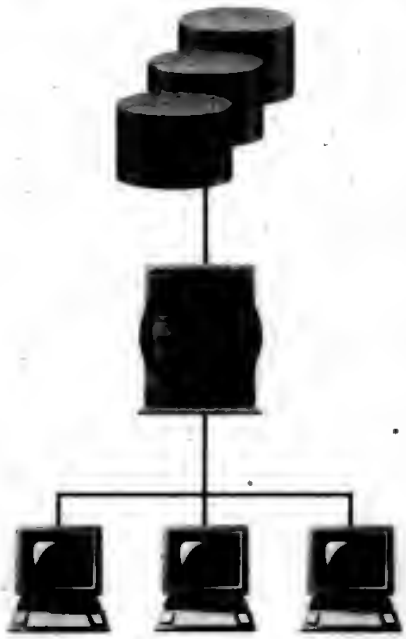

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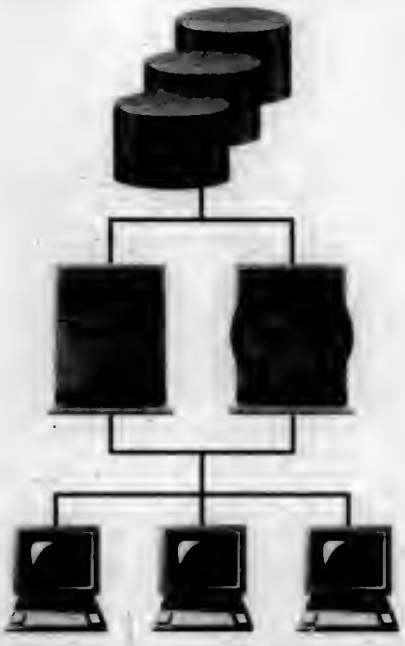

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SKILLS CRUNCH

What equipment? We're here to recruit

By Bob Wallace
WASHINGTON

THE CONVERGENCE of the LAN and WAN, coupled with raids on existing staff from all sides, is forcing information systems managers to adopt more aggressive tactics for hiring and retaining staff.

Nowhere was this more apparent than at last week's ComNet show held here.

Several users interviewed by *Computerworld* said their main reason for attending was to scour the show for sorely needed skilled staff.

"The staffing problem is a painful tumor on the networking industry," said John Morency, a principal at The Registry, Inc., a consultancy in Newton, Mass. "It's reached the crisis stage and is forcing users to take new and extreme measures, like searching trade shows for people that can help move enterprise networks forward."

TALENT SHORTAGE

Recruiters confirmed the LAN and WAN markets are hot, but they say the talent pool from which they draw is shrinking.

"There's roughly one-third fewer college students graduating with the backgrounds — computer science and electrical engineering — than there was a few years ago," said Jackie Larson, president of FocusTech, a recruiting firm in Chapel Hill, N.C. "That creates serious problems for user companies and vendors."

That is contributing to a rise in salaries (see chart). It's also what drove Earl Perkins to ComNet.

"My mission here is to attend tutorials and make connections with session speakers in an effort to find intelligent and motivated recruits that want to play a major role in moving our company forward on multiple networking fronts," explained Perkins, manager of network projects at Entergy Services, Inc., a public utility in Gretna, La. "The competition is ferocious, which means hiring has become a much larger part of my job."

Manugistics' Scott Miller: "We're looking for much more than circuit jockeys"

Perkins said he has openings for entry-level staff all the way up to senior project managers. He said pay isn't a problem for skilled staff, but he wouldn't divulge salary levels.

Staff shortages have forced many companies to hire contractors and expensive consultants. Some companies are even giving interns key networking responsibilities such as mapping out networks and tracking network addresses, equipment and lines.

Other users are resorting to tactics such as recruiting attendees at vertical market user groups and luring network managers from large universities. The latter is popular because those people support a huge campus network and often have skills that span hardware, software and the Internet.

The convergence of the LAN and WAN also puts a crimp in efforts to fill networking vacancies. Firms are forced to hire staff who understand both areas, which users say is easier said than done.

"These aren't separate jobs anymore, but it's near impossible to find candidates with solid knowledge in both areas," James said. He said he is looking for LAN/WAN engineers and network administrators.

"We're looking for much more than circuit jockeys. We want people who know all seven layers of the [Open Systems Interconnection] model, not just [WAN] transport," said Scott Miller, a senior network engineer at Manugistics, Inc., a manufacturing software vendor in Rockville, Md.

"We need people who can configure routers *and* switches as they work together in an enterprise network," he explained.

Experience with LAN analyzers is another basic requirement. "You want people who can help build a network and monitor it," Miller said.

AVERAGE COMPENSATION BY METROPOLITAN AREA*

	Director, networks	Manager voice/data networks
Dallas	$71,500	$58,917
Atlanta	$61,625	$65,000
New York/New Jersey	$82,260	$66,900
Miami	$86,667	$71,875
Chicago	$81,100	$51,500
San Jose, Calif.	$94,500	$83,333
Washington	$93,111	$66,231
San Francisco/Oakland, Calif.	$106,581	$77,962

*Salaries plus incentives — Base: 1,286 respondents

Source: Computerworld's 1996 Annual Salary Survey

Networking talent jumps to vendors

Some users claim that the toughest competitors for key hires are networking vendors.

"The person I reported to here left for a [networking] software vendor, at which time I seriously considered leaving to work for 3Com," said Kathy James, a network administrator at Yamaichi International America, a large 3Com Corp. shop and the New York-based subsidiary of Yamaichi Securities.

As a result, some users are turning the tables. Some of the senior-level managers at Entergy Services, for example, include steals from AT&T Corp. and Sprint Corp. And many view recruiters as the enemy because they focus on hiring people for vendors — especially start-ups — and not for user firms.

"Networking and communications are an extremely hot market because there's much more activity from companies that sell [networking] products, especially in the remote access area," said Joseph Kacevich Jr., president of Kacevich, Lewis & Brown, Inc. in Northboro, Mass. The firm recruits for vendors. "And if Internet companies can't find recruits with Internet experience, they then want candidates from networking and communications backgrounds." — Bob Wallace

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SHORTS

NASD error deletes files

The National Association of Securities Dealers (NASD) last week accidentally deleted up to 20,000 electronically stored regulatory files. State regulators claim the deletions could make it hard to track disciplinary histories of stockbrokers and their firms. A spokesman for the dealers association said the data should be restored by May.

Apple to unveil PowerBooks

Apple hopes to regain some of its lost market share when it rolls out a new line of multimedia PowerBooks next week at Macworld Expo in Tokyo. The PowerBook 3400 line, code-named Hooper, is expected to be available this month and will run a 180- or 200-MHz version of the PowerPC 603E processor. The new PowerBooks are expected to cost $4,500 to $6,000, according to sources close to Apple.

Compaq cuts prices

Compaq Computer Corp. has slashed the price of its business desktop and notebook PCs, servers, workstations and networking products. The Houston company said it will reduce prices up to 17% on Deskpro PCs, up to 27% on some Armada 4100 and LTE 500 notebook PCs, and up to 20% on ProSignia 300 and ProLiant 5000 servers.

Encryption exports OK'd

The U.S. Commerce Department has issued its first export licenses for 56-bit encryption software under a new policy aimed at easing restrictions on the technology. The latest rules allow overseas sales of such software if companies submit plans for "key recovery" schemes. Trusted Information Systems, Inc. in Glenwood, Md., Digital Equipment Corp. in Maynard, Mass., and Cylink Corp. in Sunnyvale, Calif., all received export permission.

Oracle NCs to bow in Japan

Oracle Corp. plans to roll out its Pentium-based network computers in Japan on April 15. Oracle CEO Larry Ellison said Japanese vendors were the first companies that signed up to build the machines. The new computers will include 16-bit software and multilingual support.

Outlook wasn't brilliant, Microsoft warns

▸ *On vendor's advice, some Exchange users wait for upgrade*

By Barb Cole

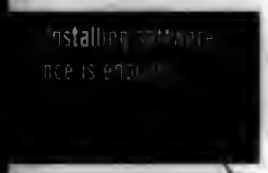
EXCHANGE USERS who rushed to deploy Microsoft Corp.'s Outlook E-mail client can put on the brakes. Microsoft, which some critics claim is prone to shipping "beta" software, is advising Exchange users to wait for a revised version of Outlook slated for later this quarter.

There was no formal announcement. Rather, some product management employees at Microsoft have posted messages to an Exchange newsgroup advising users to delay their move Outlook. Several users also said their companies were directly told to wait.

Outlook, the integrated electronic-mail and groupware client that replaces the Exchange client, shipped with Microsoft Office 97 last month. The improved version will ship with Exchange 5.0.

Microsoft officials declined to specify how the versions would differ but said some bugs in Outlook had been discovered and fixed since Office 97 shipped.

Meanwhile, some users have reported on various Exchange user forums that messages disappear from their Outlook in-boxes and reappear when the client is closed and reopened. Others have reported that the Outlook client sometimes loses its place in the in-box and goes into a previously read message.



"We've almost come to expect this, but you still have to wonder why the hell they do it," said Kevin Henry, an information systems assistant at the University of Vermont School of Business Administration in Burlington. He was referring to Microsoft's penchant for shipping flawed products that prompt the vendor to release upgrades and service packs soon after. Henry said he has moved about 100 of the school's 2,000 Exchange users to Outlook, but will halt the rollout until Exchange 5.0 is available. "Installing software once is enough," he said.

Consolidated Edison Co. of New York, Inc. will delay a massive Outlook deployment until next month, according to systems specialist Bob Winterton. "We don't want to touch the desktops again, and we want the latest and greatest version of Outlook that will come out with [Exchange] 5.0," he said.

USERS' CHOICE

One Microsoft official said the recommendation to wait isn't meant to keep companies from rolling ahead with the new client. "There's no technical reason they can't deploy Outlook today," said Greg Lobdell, group product manager at Microsoft.

Lobdell insisted that installing the upgraded Outlook won't involve manual intervention at the desktop. "There will be some new [code] on the desktop, but the install will happen at the server level when [users] load Exchange 5.0," he said.

"Thankfully, we never jump on the bandwagon immediately," said Mike Levenson, an E-mail administrator at AT&T Wireless Services, Inc. in Bellevue, Wash., an Exchange site that hasn't moved to Outlook yet. "If we already had [Outlook] running, this would frustrate me. Why can't they sort this stuff out before they send out the software?"

But some early adopters of Exchange said the expected improvements aren't enough to hold up deployments.

"Chances are we won't wait" until Exchange 5.0 ships to deploy Outlook, said Erik Iversen, director of application development services at Nabisco, Inc., in Parsippany, N.J. Nabisco recently began to move its 8,000 Exchange users to Office 97 and Outlook.

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Mainframe tool extended to Unix platforms

By Patrick Dryden

STERLING SOFTWARE, INC. this week will offer a new way for large organizations to extend some of the reliability and manageability of mainframe data centers to distributed client/server networks.

New versions of its host-based Solve: Operations tool kit run on two widely installed Unix-based network management platforms: OpenView from Hewlett-Packard Co. and NetView from Tivoli Systems, Inc.

Now information systems managers can consolidate their view of business processes that involve a mainframe and diverse servers throughout multiprotocol networks. That helps them maintain the level of service expected by users, according to officials at Sterling's operations management division in Reston, Va.

"This integration lets me define automated management policies once on the mainframe side, then distribute them to OpenView," said a beta tester at a global oil corporation who asked to remain anonymous.

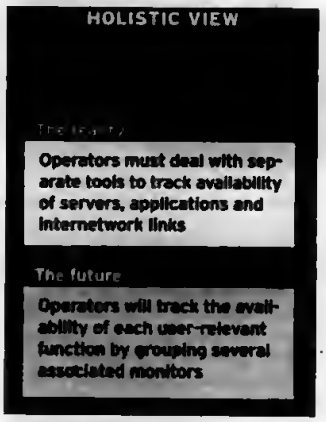
That means operators don't require expertise and interaction with multiple consoles. Instead, they can track vital functions across many systems and devices — on both IP and SNA networks — from the OpenView console, he said.

More than just a "red-light monitor" to filter problem alerts, Solve: Operations helps operators react with an automated fix, said Mike Kahn, CEO of Clipper Group, Inc., an enterprise systems consultancy in Wellesley, Mass.

Tools that provide similar capabilities include Boole & Babbage, Inc.'s Command Post, Candle Corp.'s Command Center and Computer Associates International, Inc.'s Unicenter TNG.

Such tools can "reduce duplicate management efforts and lessen incremental expenses when the data center staff takes control of open systems," Kahn said.

Even more important is the power to view "business entities, not just infrastructure pieces," said Jay Borden, an analyst at Giga Information Group in Cambridge, Mass.



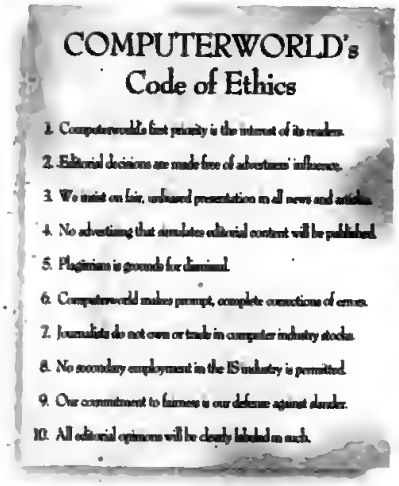
IS managers are hustling to meet the requirements of service-level agreements with business units. Users don't care about network or server uptime as much as they care about "the availability of their application from the client to the server and back," Borden said.

For example, Solve: Operations lets IS managers group multiple components of one financial function for easy monitoring. One view into a payroll process could include the database server, CICS transactions, the check printer and the network links in between.

Available now, Solve: Operations for OpenView or for NetView/AIX costs between $15,000 and $35,000.

"That's a small price to pay to lessen risk," Kahn said. The tools streamline management of critical functions, "so you need less labor to watch one place instead of five," he said.

& You need to consider more than technology when choosing applications. Page 57.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HP puts stamp on Rmon 2 standard

▸ *Tools that track application activity follow standard, but proprietary extensions persist*

By Patrick Dryden

HEWLETT-PACKARD CO., the leading supplier of Remote Monitoring (Rmon) probes, will throw its weight behind the new Rmon 2 data-gathering standard at the same time it pushes proprietary enhancements — a situation that has tied users to individual vendors in the past.

In one sense, HP's move heralds a new age of openness for information systems managers who seek to mix and match tools instead of depending on single-vendor combinations to dig out vital performance data.

"We would like to watch all devices the same way, not need separate software for each kind of hardware," said John Ray, a telecommunications engineer at Lexis-Nexis in Miamisburg, Ohio. "Ideally, one performance analysis console should work with any vendor's probe."

managers analyze the history and response time for application usage.

The original Rmon specification defined ways for standalone probe units and modules embedded in internetworking devices to gather basic data about network plumbing — the packets, errors and utilization on individual segments.

Widespread implementation of Rmon formed a foundation that vendors extended in their own ways to examine a higher level of activity — application usage from end to end. The Rmon 2 standard defines such application-level monitoring.

JOINING THE CLUB

Broad support for Rmon 2 is under way. Bay Networks, Inc. in Santa Clara, Calif., offers an Rmon 2-compliant management module that can upgrade some of its internetworking de-

HP'S SUPPORT FOR RMON 2

Products in Hewlett-Packard's NetMetrix line that support RMON 2

Product	Price
NetMetrix Enterprise Manager software	$20,995
HP J3458A Fast Ethernet LanProbe	$6,000
HP 4986 Ethernet LanProbe	$2,395
Firmware upgrade for FDDI, Token Ring and Quad Ethernet models	Free

HP, in Palo Alto, Calif., has implemented the Rmon 2 support required for such interoperability in two new LanProbe models and in firmware upgrades for three existing probes that provide the necessary power and memory (see chart).

But Rmon vendors such as HP are seeking differentiation by adding new monitoring capabilities, a process that continues the proprietary product cycle users have endured for the past two years.

For example, HP's Rmon 2 LanProbes can store protocol data and measure point-to-point conversations, two functions that aren't specified by the standard.

Unless other vendors look for this data from HP probes in their software, only HP's NetMetrix console can use it to help

vices, and Concord Communications, Inc. in Marlboro, Mass., has released new firmware for its discontinued probes.

Rmon 2 support is also imminent from 3Com Corp. in Santa Clara, Calif., Frontier Software Development, Inc. in Chelmsford, Mass., and others.

Concord recently shipped performance analysis software that reads data from Rmon 2 hardware, and integrator International Network Services, Inc. (INS) in Sunnyvale, Calif., has extended its monitoring service to cover multiple vendors' gear.

Performance analysis software from Concord and INS can gather Rmon 2 data from HP's new and upgraded probes and from other vendors' devices. But neither can yet use HP's extended capabilities.

Preventive networking

▸ *Compuware monitor helps measure app performance, pass alerts*

By Patrick Dryden

TO HELP information systems managers respond to network performance problems *before* the help desk phones ring, Compuware Corp. has enhanced its application tracking software to measure performance and warn operators of slowdowns.

The Farmington Hills, Mich., company this week will unveil Version 3.0 of EcoScope, formerly known as EcoNet.

The tool now recognizes packets for more than 1,500 off-the-shelf packages in addition to homegrown applications.

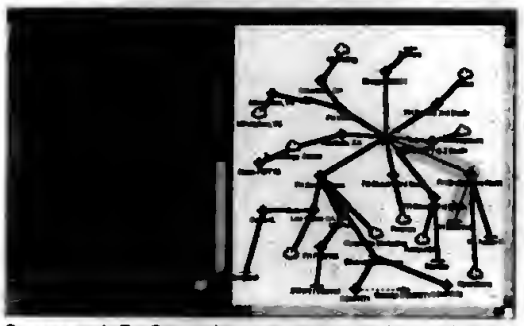
For the first time, those include applications based on the Internet Protocol, so IS managers can watch overall usage of their LANs and WANs as well as private intranet and external Internet resources.

"We can now measure precisely what response users get across our global WAN, down to examining the transactions for our Oracle database," said beta tester Michael Medwid, a senior communications analyst at software developer Symantec Corp. in Cupertino, Calif.

AT HOME WITH HBO

At Home Box Office (HBO) in New York, EcoScope profiles application usage for several groups: the network managers, application developers and administrators of systems and databases. Its reports help each group plan how to overhaul HBO's infrastructure to support bandwidth-hungry custom Oracle Corp. applications, according to beta tester Michael Smith, an HBO network manager.

Compuware cuts through "the patchwork of overlapping monitor functions" offered by management products to focus specifically on application performance, said Alison Palmer, an analyst at Hurwitz Group, Inc. in Newton, Mass.



Compuware's EcoScope gives managers a user's-eye view of application performance

EcoScope can "show who's wasting time on the [World Wide] Web as well as track the quality of service," Palmer said.

But she added that managers need to integrate performance monitoring with other functions, such as inventory and software distribution, for more complete management control.

Although EcoScope's monitoring is "a good first step, [it] still can't take corrective action, which is required to really manage an application," said Waverly Deutsch, an analyst at Forrester Research, Inc. in Cambridge, Mass.

EcoScope "can show who's wasting time on the Web as well as track the quality of service."
– Alison Palmer, Hurwitz Group

But Compuware has enabled its tool to pass alarms to any network management platform when it detects response time slowing for any monitored application. Then operators can apply specific tools to find and fix the problem.

"Watching the packets broadcast on the backbone is a good way to measure the round-trip time a user sees, but I worry about the impact of switching," said Tom Reinsel, a telecommunications analyst at Eli Lilly and Co. in Indianapolis.

Because switches can break traffic flow into many paths, "I would have to look through the monitor port on every switch to examine traffic paths across each backplane," Reinsel said.

Alternatives under development by vendors require monitoring agents at every client/server endpoint or measurement and control capability within the application.

EcoScope requires at least one Windows-based PC to act as a monitoring post that reports to a console. EcoScope is available starting at $36,000 for two consoles and 10 monitors.

You need to consider more than technology when choosing applications. Page 57

Optimal tracking monitor on way

Optimal Networks Corp. expects this summer to offer a tool similar to Compuware's EcoScope that specifically tracks response time for IP applications and passes alarms to standard network management consoles.

The Palo Alto, Calif.-based vendor will unveil plans this week for Version 2.0 of Optimal Internet Monitor, which currently profiles application activity across intranet or Internet connections.

New functions will include monitors that warn of telnet access from possible security violations and track domain name server activity. Other functions include trend reports that depict utilization, throughput and response time for specified applications.

"I'd like this to compare the response times between dial-up and cable modem connections to promote a new service we're testing," said Internet Monitor user Xavier Dorche, a technical applications analyst at Prism Cable of Las Vegas, a regional cable television operator.

Alarm support will let Internet Monitor 2.0 pass alerts to operators when a file transfer fails, for example, or when users access specific sites or experience unacceptable performance. Beta testing should begin in April.

— Patrick Dryden

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Acceptance slow for Windows CE devices

By Mindy Blodgett

TWO MONTHS AFTER the first wave of handheld devices based on Microsoft Corp.'s new Windows CE operating system entered the marketplace, the jury is still out on user acceptance.

But according to industry observers, some trouble may be brewing for the devices that Microsoft and the devices' manufacturers are pointedly calling handheld PCs (HPC). The vendors are trying to avoid a comparison with anemic-selling personal digital assistants (PDA).

The main differences between the Windows CE devices and PDAs already on the market are the ability to interface with Windows and true data sychronization between the devices and desktops or laptops.

PROBLEMS HARD TO SHAKE

But the problems that plagued the PDA market — users who carry a laptop plus a pager or cellular telephone and aren't convinced they need another device — may also dog the HPC.

"It's very early to tell, but it is my understanding that the CE devices are not doing terribly well at this point," said John Dunkle, an analyst at Workgroup Strategic Services, Inc. in Portsmouth, N.H. "It's the same old problem of whether people want a downscaled laptop or an overblown organizer."

Microsoft said it doesn't yet have numbers on sales. But one Windows CE vendor that asked not to be named said the $500 to $700 devices are selling steadily, but slowly. Corporate users especially are hanging back or cautiously testing the devices before committing to a rollout, observers said.

However, Carol Elfstrom, a spokeswoman for CompUSA, Inc. in Dallas, said that although no numbers were available, the devices were selling well, particularly the high-end models.

Stephen McCallister, MIS manager at Planned Parenthood of Western Washington in Seattle, is testing Casio Computer Corp.'s Cassiopeia. He said he was "basically happy with the platform" but has some concerns. "It is a totally new operating system," he said. "As it is, I support Windows users, Mac users — how many [operating systems] do I want to support?"

The devices have some kinks, including electronic mail that doesn't allow attachments and the lack of wireless remote data sychronization, said users and analysts who have tested them.

The Personal Computer and Communications Association (PCCA) recently formed a committee to address various issues with the handheld devices, including architecture, security and standards. The PCCA is working on several fronts, including setting standards for wireless access and encryption.

The IRS decides to use wireless devices to track fraud. Page 47

FAA's IT management slammed

▸ *Agency criticized for IT failures that hinder systems modernization*

By Matt Hamblen

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY management failures are seriously undermining the $20 billion effort to modernize the nation's air traffic control systems, charged a recently released report from the General Accounting Office.

"The FAA has a very complex system. It's real time, and lives are at stake," said Rona B. Stillman, the GAO's chief scientist for computers.

The GAO report blasts the Federal Aviation Administration for failing to develop a complete technical blueprint, or architecture, for systems to work together. And the report calls for a single entity at the FAA, such as a chief information officer, to force all FAA teams to use the same playbook.

Chastened FAA officials agreed they need a complete architecture and said they have an informal system in place to provide one. But the GAO countered that such informal management is "neither sufficient nor working well."

The GAO defined technical architecture as a plan for defining all the required information technology and telecommunications standards and critical systems characteristics for software, communications, data management, security and performance.

The lack of an agencywide architecture means the "FAA permits and perpetuates" inconsistency and incompatibilities, according to the report.

The result is that "future [air traffic control] system development and maintenance will continue to be more difficult and costly than it need be, and system performance will continue to be suboptimal," the report concluded.

FAA officials wouldn't comment beyond their remarks to the GAO. The FAA has 60 days to respond further before the report is reviewed by congressional committees.

David Schaefer, counsel to the U.S. House Aviation Subcommittee, said the GAO report sounds like something he has heard about the FAA for 13 years. "The FAA will say they've worked out their problems, but it turns out it's not enough," Schaefer said. "People on the Hill are sensitive to this. The public is concerned about waste and air safety."

Implementing a technical architecture should happen before the agency replaces its 30-year-old host computer system in 1999, Stillman said.

SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGE

The GAO report makes clear that creating a technical architecture poses a management challenge for an agency with decentralized power.

The "FAA has a culture like most large agency cultures that is averse to change and has entrenched autonomous organizations that tend not to respond to challenge," Stillman said.

Federal systems consultant Warren H. Suss said the FAA's regionalized management style means it has a "difficult environment" to manage.

"The FAA certainly could use stronger central direction to ride herd over the regions to ensure technological consistency," said Suss, president of Warren H. Suss Associates in Jenkintown, Pa.

Source: U.S. General Accounting Office, Washington

Bad traffic patterns

FAA failings described in the GAO report include the following:

- **Seven of 10 air traffic control systems modernization development teams are working without a technical architecture. Of the three that are cooperating, two specify C and C++ as acceptable programming languages, and the other accepts Ada.**
- **One team's architecture specifies the Ethernet Protocol, and another specifies the incompatible Fiber Distributed Data Interface.**
- **Software applications associated with 54 air traffic control systems were written in 53 programming languages, requiring more training and support software for programming staff.**

HDS upgrades spice up 7700 disk arrays

By Tim Ouellette

HITACHI DATA SYSTEMS CORP. last week comforted its high-end storage customers by announcing a slew of software upgrades to its 7700 mainframe disk arrays.

The high-performance disk arrays, which have been the bread and butter of HDS' storage business, needed the features to keep up with products from mainframe storage market leaders EMC Corp. and IBM.

"Disk reliability is the most important feature of our strategy to deliver service to our users," said Howard Lewis, a senior vice president at NationsBank Corp.'s operational services division in Charlotte, N.C.

Leading the list of the 15 new 7700 features are the following:

- The capability to store Unix-based data.
- High-speed transfer of mainframe data to Unix server systems without time-consuming mainframe data calls.
- Support for mixed RAID-1 and RAID-5 security within the same subsystem.
- Online data migration that lets users transfer data from older systems without interrupting regular daily operations.
- New 7700s shipping with 3.5-in., 9.2G-byte disk drives.

Analysts endorsed the Santa Clara, Calif., company's strategy of offering upgrades without requiring users to buy new systems. Some features will be automatically added to new and existing systems; others are optional.

"Vendors need features like online data migration to even make a customer's bid list," said John McArthur, an analyst at International Data Corp. in Framingham, Mass.

"Storage managers are managing more data with the same resources, and they are looking for anything that can off-load some of the work," he added.

For example, Lewis said the online migration feature saved NationsBank four months of weekend work and 40 hours of planned outage time.

Some features are available now; others will be delivered by midyear.

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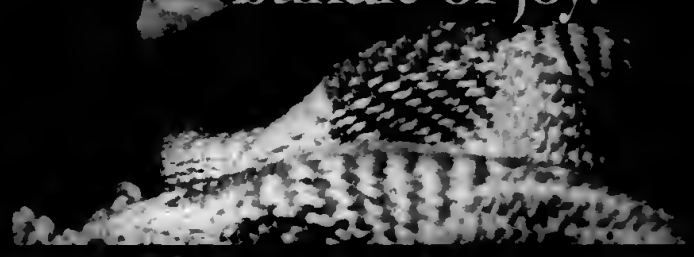

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Focus on what matters

Early users tout NC cost savings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We salvaged 400 286-, 386- and 486-[based] systems by turning them into [network computers]. When we started this project, we thought we would have to throw [them] away."

Uarco is a $550 million business-document printing company with 10 printing plants and four customer service centers nationwide.

The company spent about $2 million on infrastructure upgrades and equipment to create its network computing environment. That cost included the purchase of 400 Winterminals from Wyse Technology, Inc. in San Jose, Calif., to supplement the 400 salvaged PCs.

The PCs run the WinFrame network operating system from Citrix Systems, Inc. in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

"We are realizing a savings of between 70% and 90% of the cost of maintaining a shop of strictly PCs," Gouverneur said. "We estimate it costs us about $2,000 a year per user for [network computer] maintenance."

Uarco's network computing effort was part of a larger companywide migration to client/server systems from a mix of mainframe and isolated LANs. All but about 50 power users at the main office use the network computers.

Analysts' research seems to support Uarco's hopes for cost savings. Zona Research, Inc. in Redwood City, Calif., estimates that a network operating system, such as WinFrame, that runs on the Network Computer from Boundless Technology, Inc. in Austin, Texas — a system similar to the Winterminal — over five years will cost 57% less than PCs that run Windows. Zona estimates that the Network Computer costs about $1,200 per user per year, compared with $3,000 per PC user for the same period.

Gartner Group, Inc. in Stamford, Conn., also concluded, cautiously, that network computers can save users money. In a report, "Network Computer: Panacea and Pandora's Box," Gartner estimated that some network computers could provide a 41% savings compared with PCs.

Network computers, which are usually diskless, don't require as much individual care as PCs because software and driver updates are done from a central location.
— Kent Polzin, Simmons

Sears, Roebuck and Co. in Hoffman Estates, Ill., plans to implement more than 2,000 thin-client devices from Boundless Technologies later this year. The retail giant will deploy the machines nationwide as point-of-sale machines in its automotive centers.

Sears officials said the fact that the company already uses diskless PCs in many locations will ease the transition to network computers. The retailer cited ease of administration and centralized software distribution as two major advantages of network computers over PCs.

Don Laidlaw, a senior technical specialist at NxTrend Technology-Canada, Inc., a systems integrator in Thornhill, Ontario, said his company is also implementing network computers for internal use and reselling IBM's Network Station to customers.

NxTrend plans to put Network Stations on all its database programmers' desks because the programmers need only limited access to typical PC applications and focus on just a few job-related applications most of the time. NxTrend is piloting 10 of the machines but could branch out to several hundred if they are successful.

ADVANTAGES

Benefits of the network computing environment are superior and centralized management and better security, Laidlaw said. "The fact that we can upgrade software on the server is attractive," he said.

Kent Polzin, manager of technical operations at Simmons Co. in Atlanta, also points to centralized management features such as software distribution, which typically requires time and money.

He noted that network computers, which usually are diskless, don't require as much individual care as PCs because software and driver updates are done from a central location, and users can't fiddle with them.

Laidlaw tells his customers to look closely at the users and their functions. "If users need constant access to Windows-based applications, they are not the best candidates for a [network computer] since they don't access them directly," he said.

"We are realizing a savings of between 70% and 90% of the cost of maintaining a shop of strictly PCs"

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Snapshot

COMPUTERWORLD LANDS AT SOUTH POLE. International Data Group (IDG) has launched Computerworld South Pole on Antarctica, the only continent where a Computerworld wasn't already published. IDG Chairman Patrick McGovern displays the first issue at the pole marking the geographic bottom of the world. The Antarctic computer market is relatively small at only about $50 million, but McGovern noted that it is growing by 30% per year. The annual population of Antarctica peaks at about 4,100.

Oracle tools to get Java, C++ technology

By Sharon Gaudin

APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT

ORACLE CORP. has licensed Java and C++ technology from Borland International, Inc. to bolster its application development tools line and ultimately its upcoming network computers.

Oracle licensed the source code, object code and other general technology for Borland's JBuilder and its new C++Builder.

Oracle will embed the Java technology in its Designer 2000 and Developer 2000 environments. Those environments will also feature Sedona, Oracle's object-oriented developer for building network computer applications.

The Java-enabled edition of Developer 2000 will ship next month.

A BIGGER PICTURE

"Oracle is recognizing that you're not just dealing with single-point tools anymore," said Evan Quinn, an analyst at International Data Corp. in Framingham, Mass.

"Oracle has Developer 2000, which is a fine component consumer, but you can't build components with it. You certainly can with Borland's tools. Now Oracle has a more holistic story," Quinn said.

Oracle is specifically interested in Borland's Java technology, according to Dennis Moore, vice president of tools product marketing at Oracle.

"Java is the language of network computing. We'll need Java to develop applications for our network computers," Moore said.

Moore said Oracle will make additional Java announcements next month.

He said a new Java-based user interface will be part of the upcoming Developer 2000 release. The interface will be separable so it can be used with other environments.

Quinn said that is a good deal for Borland, which has seen its revenue and mind share take a dip in recent quarters.

"Look how rich Oracle is as a channel for someone like Borland," Quinn said. "At this point next year, I think their financial situation could look a lot brighter than it looks right now."

Oracle's new applications package targets resources planning. Page 43

Server-based apps may cut desktop costs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Corp. and Sun Microsystems, Inc. use to push their Network Computer, a diskless PC.

But users and analysts said such devices aren't the only factors pushing Microsoft toward server-based applications. There is also the booming growth of the server-centric Internet and the need for enterprise-scale applications.

The ability to build ActiveX components will appeal to IS managers who create 'net applications

Developers long could build server-side applications with Microsoft's Visual C++, but bringing Visual Basic into that realm will add an estimated 2 million to 3 million users.

Visual Basic 5.0 can build active documents, which means an application can sit on the server and be called up on the client or through a browser. The tool also will move client applications to the Internet. Visual Basic 5.0 also has ActiveX Control Creation, which makes it much easier for developers to build ActiveX components.

Dan Mezick, a Visual Basic trainer at New Technology Solutions in North Haven, Conn., said the ability to build ActiveX components will appeal to the growing number of IS managers who need to create Internet applications.

"Microsoft released that part months earlier. Why would they do that unless people were screaming for it?" he asked.

Many users and analysts predict the upcoming version of Microsoft's Visual C++ will have the same active server-based capabilities as Visual Basic 5.0. And there are rumors Visual J++ will be similarly equipped. The three languages will be packaged in Microsoft's upcoming Visual Studio 97.

PUSH IS ON

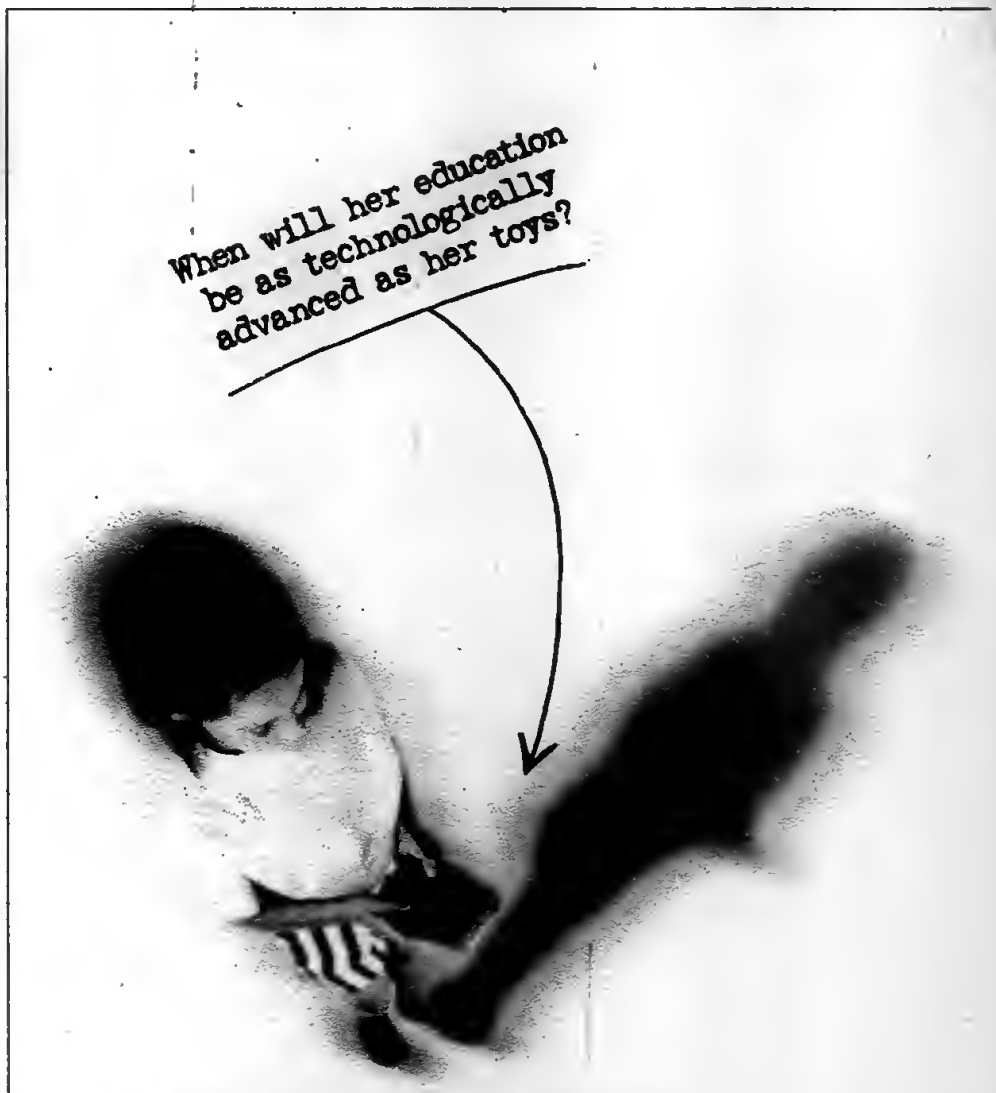
"They're getting the tools aligned to support an Internet push," said Evan Quinn, an analyst at International Data Corp. (IDC), a research firm in Framingham, Mass. "They're hedging their bets against network computers spilling over and competing directly against PCs. They also recognize that in the corporate world, a lot of client/server applications are going to get shifted to an intranet or the Internet, and they've got to work on the server to play in that market."

"This is right on the central path of what we're doing," said Dave Lingren, director of advanced development at Dunsgate, a New York-based company of The Dun & Bradstreet Corp. "We need to build a very elaborate [World Wide] Web site with a lot of logic, database access and business rules. All of that needs to sit on the server. This will absolutely revolutionize how long it takes us."

Bharath Narayan, a senior consultant at Cap Gemini America, a software-based applications development consulting firm in Cincinnati, said he is moving toward server-based applications, but Microsoft's release will further propel him.

"If Microsoft did not have the capability, then I would be looking at other tools that are capable of doing it," Narayan said. Currently, 20% of the applications he builds are server-based, he said. But Narayan said he expects that in two years, that number will jump to 80% or more.

However, Chris Kwiecinski, a senior systems developer at Nabisco, Inc. in Parsippany, N.J., said, "There's a lot more issues to think about with server-side applications. Who has access to the data on the server? How do you provide access? How do you protect your information? It's a lot to think about."



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New owner makes right moves with D&B Software

▶ *Geac vows to continue R&D spending*

By Randy Weston

USERS OF Dun & Bradstreet Software products are sailing calmer waters these days under new owner Geac Computer Corp.

But users said they are still watching the company carefully to make sure it stays on course.

"I have received reassurance that it would be business as usual and that there wouldn't be any reduction in [research and development] spending," said Dick Hudson, chief information officer at Global Marine Corp. in Houston. "By the end of this year, we should know if Geac plans to meet that commitment or not," he added.

Geac seems to be keeping its promises

Global Marine is a $600 million-per-year international offshore oil drilling company. So far, Hudson said, Geac seems to be keeping its promises. "For us, [the ownership transfer] has been a nonevent. It's like nothing happened. We are putting in the latest release of the SmartStream products, and we have not had any support problems at all."

BUYER WANTED

D&B Software users were left in limbo for more than a year as The Dun & Bradstreet Corp. sought a buyer for its business application division.

Dun & Bradstreet last July announced that Boston venture capitalist firm Bain Capital intended to buy the software division, but negotiations broke down before the deal could be finalized.

In October, Geac, a computer industry investment firm in Markham, Ontario, stepped in with an offer of $150 million. But users and analysts were worried that Geac couldn't handle a company as large as $350 million D&B Software. The purchase more than doubled Geac's total holdings.

Analysts and users have applauded Geac's decision to split D&B Software into two divisions: a mainframe software unit called HostStream and SmartStream, the client/server software business.

"The moves so far have been forward-thinking and in the right direction," said Barry Wilderman, an analyst at Meta Group, Inc. in Stamford, Conn. "Users are also much better off with Geac than with Bain."

Unlike Bain, Geac is in the computer industry and has a history of sticking with companies it purchases, Wilderman said. Because Bain is purely an investment firm, there was concern it would simply try to get its investment back, a less stable prospect for D&B Software customers.

Besides the move to divide the company into two divisions, Wilderman and Hudson pointed to a decision to port SmartStream to more than one platform. The product currently works only with Sybase, Inc. databases.

"Making SmartStream products work on multidatabase platforms instead of just Sybase is an intelligent decision," Hudson said. "Why cut yourself out of two-thirds of the market?"

A much-anticipated version of SmartStream for Microsoft Corp.'s SQL Server Version 6.5 is now in beta testing and due for delivery next month.

▪ Air France moves reservation pieces to Unix server

Object project flies

By Craig Stedman

AIR FRANCE IS preparing for takeoff on a project that will shuttle key pieces of its mainframe-based reservation system to a Unix server running an object database — a maneuver that it hopes will lead directly to a 1% revenue boost.

The Paris-based airline has annual sales of more than $7 billion at current exchange rates, so an additional 1% would translate into $70 million in new business. "That's quite a large amount of money for us," said Pierre Gandois, who is managing the project at Air France.

NOT SO FAST

Air France is one of the first companies outside the telecommunications and financial industries to use an object database in a core transaction application, said Liz Barnett, an analyst at Giga Information Group in Cambridge, Mass.

But that doesn't mean object databases will soon be widely infiltrating data centers, she said. "It's definitely still a niche kind of thing," she said.

Even Air France is going only so far with the technology. Airlines as a whole still depend on mainframes to run their transaction-gobbling reservation systems, and Air France plans to leave all ticket processing on its Unisys Corp. mainframe, Gandois said.

The Unix system, which began final testing last week, will take over the airline's revenue and yield management applications.

By leaning on the object database, Air France hopes to get a real-time system that can help better fill planes with higher-paying customers, Gandois said.

The airline's revenue managers can now track only individual segments, which means that filling up a Paris-to-New York flight could prevent it from selling more expensive tickets to passengers who want to start elsewhere and connect to that flight. The new system will track "a combination of flights rather than looking at each flight as a single unit," Gandois said.

TICKET HANDLING

Parameters for ticket availability and discounts will be set by an Oracle Corp. relational database running on a Sun Microsystems, Inc. server that gets nightly batch feeds from the mainframe. As flights start filling up, ticket requests will be fed through another Sun server with Versant Object Technology Corp.'s object database, which will approve or deny bookings. Approved requests will then be processed at the mainframe.

About 20% of the airline's 500 daily flights are expected to be controlled by the Versant-based system, which is due to go live in March or April, Gandois said. Air France declined to disclose its investment in the project.

The C++ application was written by Sabre Decision Technologies, the software development arm of AMR Corp. in Fort Worth, Texas. Sabre is marketing the design to other airlines, but many "are scared to go into an object database" because the technology is unproven for transaction processing, said Vic Nilson, Sabre's Air France project director.

FRENCH FLY

Some details on Air France's object database project

- The object database runs entirely in memory, eliminating the need to read data from disks
- Ticket requests will take longer to process, but Air France hopes to keep the added time to less than 40 milliseconds
- The airline's 100 revenue managers will use PCs running Windows 95
- The database can automatically open or close discount offers as business conditions change

HP pumps up its Unix cluster suite

By Jaikumar Vijayan

HEWLETT-PACKARD CO. is enhancing the application availability and systems management capabilities of its suite of Unix clustering products.

The enhancements aim to give users simplified application management within a cluster and more protection against server failure for applications running on the Internet. The management enhancements will be available by the end of the second quarter in a new version of HP ClusterView software.

They include drag-and-drop capabilities for moving applications between different systems or between servers in separate buildings. This allows administrators to move applications off one server to another for performing tasks such as upgrading operating systems.

APPLICATION MANAGEMENT

HP will also integrate performance monitoring tools such as HP GlancePlus and PerfView with ClusterView. The tools will give users system-performance monitoring information directly from ClusterView.

"Capabilities like these are very important for us," said Barry Flachsbart, vice president of information systems at Skyway Freight Systems, Inc. in Watsonville, Calif.

"We run a pretty continuous operation here, and it is important for us to be able to manage things remotely and to do things like adding or changing processors [in a cluster] without bringing the whole system down," he said.

HP also announced availability of a new Network Connection Policy Manager that lets administrators balance and manage client access to the network. For example, Internet requests from hundreds of browser connections can be balanced automatically across the nodes of a cluster.

On the high-availability side, HP said it will release new versions of its MC/ServiceGuard and MC/LockManager clustering software that includes support for 'net-based applications.

The software, due in the second quarter, will include support for a feature called "campus cluster" that allows systems as far as two kilometers apart to be clustered together.

Network Connection Policy Manager starts at $1,000. The enhanced version of HP ClusterView will start at $1,500, and MC/ServiceGuard with campus cluster support will start at $6,000.

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Who's in the online pool?

▸ *Law requires racial data from online job seekers*

By Julia King

DO YOU KNOW HOW many whites, blacks, Hispanics, males and females are replying to your online job postings?

If not, you may be violating federal employment laws, which require companies to prove that pools of job applicants match area demographics.

WHITE MALE OVERLOAD

By law, all companies that do business with the government — that would include most large corporations — are required to furnish regulators with data about the race and gender of job applicants. But online job banks don't provide this information.

Consequently, employers that recruit on the Internet — whose users are predominantly white males — may face greater exposure to discrimination complaints.

"Companies aren't prohibited from using technology for recruitment, but if they're pulling down resumes [from the Internet], they could generate a pool of candidates without knowing race and gender [data]. And that presents a problem," said Joe Kennedy, deputy director of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs in Washington.

The Internet "has allowed companies to broaden their search, which should be good from an affirmative action standpoint," Kennedy said.

"But at the same time, there are concerns that use of computers has not penetrated all of society," he said.

These concerns were enough for Eli Lilly and Company to strictly limit its use of the Internet for recruiting.

LEAD THEM TO LILLY

"The [contract compliance] office here in the Midwest is not real favorable on companies using the Internet to pull applicants [because] they feel it could be discriminatory," said Ron Anglea, national recruiting and staffing manager at Eli Lilly.

"So we've taken a conservative approach," he said.

For one thing, Eli Lilly doesn't download resumes from job banks. Instead, it advertises available jobs on its own corporate Web page "and invites people to come to us," Anglea said.

Rather than use it as a recruiting tool, "we've taken the position that the Internet is an excellent advertising tool," he said.

LARRY LOGIC

Eli Lilly's Ron Anglea says he prefers to use the Internet as an advertising tool rather than a recruiting tool

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BLACK DATA PROCESSING ASSOCIATES

Concerned with the impact of technology on minorities

MINORITY CAREER RESOURCES OCC

Lists resources and Web sites for women and minorities

Internet recruiting hasn't lived up to hype

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Too many job sites and an ever-growing glut of junk resumes — often replicated from site to site — are common complaints.

Another big problem is the lack of sophisticated search and resume-tracking tools to help recruiters wade through the information.

LITTLE EFFECT

Meanwhile, that electronic tidal wave is washing over human resources organizations, many of which are still processing resumes manually.

And while the numbers are hard to come by, there is no overwhelming evidence that companies are hiring more or better-qualified candidates on the Internet than they would if they were using traditional recruitment methods.

"I'd love to find people directly from the 'net, but my experience is that doesn't happen frequently," said Robert Cortlandt, executive information systems recruiter at The Gap, Inc. in San Francisco.

Cortlandt said in the past six months he has hired only two of 62 new employees by searching various online resume banks.

"It's really rare to get hired from the 'net," said John Sumser, an analyst and CEO at Internet Business Network.

"Job hunting is one of the places on the 'net where spam is a way of life," he explained.

That is partly because posting a resume online is usually free. And sending a resume in response to an online advertisement involves little more than pointing and clicking on a job listing.

Moreover, the quality of online resumes at several services has gotten so bad that some recruiters are dropping them altogether. Among them is David Kosek, president of Career Vision, Inc. in Centreville, Va.

"You waste a lot of time [because] most resumes don't say what salary range the candidate is looking for or if they'll relocate," Kosek said. "It's not that much better than cold calling."

DAILY SURFING

Other IS recruiters, including Lora Hyler at Wisconsin Electric Co. in Milwaukee, have reported that they can't keep up with the ever-growing number of sites to surf.

"You really need to stay current because new resumes are being posted daily," Hyler said. "The key is having the time and staff to surf on a daily or twice-a-week basis, and very few people have that."

Weeding for hours through hundreds of electronic resumes isn't Ron Anglea's idea of efficient or cost-effective employee recruitment. "I see these sites packed full of jobs, and I'm not so sure people are willing to scroll through them all to get to the jobs I've listed," said Anglea, national recruiting and staffing manager at Eli Lilly and Company in Indianapolis.

> "Job hunting is one of the places on the 'net where spam is a way of life."
> – John Sumser
> Internet Business Network

Then there is the increased danger of violating federal job recruitment statutes, given the preponderance of Internet users who are white males (see story above).

For all these reasons, Anglea said he holds no grand illusions about filling immediate job openings via cyberspace.

But like most recruiters, he doesn't intend to drop off the Internet, either.

Instead, he has modified his approach; Anglea has dropped Internet job services in favor of advertising jobs on Lilly's corporate home page, where he has more control over the content and can monitor usage.

Others are willing to stick it out while they wait for new tools and services to emerge that will help companies sort through the information glut.

Those tools and services include proprietary searching software geared to work with an individual job bank and automated resume-tracking systems that users implement in-house to work with many online services.

SHAKEOUT

But in a year or two, there is a good chance companies won't need to buy those tools and services.

That's because the top job banks will start to offer more sophisticated capabilities online.

Wes Richards, a partner in the IS practice at Heidrick & Struggles, an executive search firm in Menlo Park, Calif., predicts that top online job banks will begin to offer services such as confirming degrees, checking job histories and performing criminal checks.

A shakeout in the next two years among today's bumper crop of online job sites also will help curb the current information glut, according to Bill Bass, an analyst at Forrester Research, Inc. in Cambridge, Mass.

Forrester has predicted that the online recruitment market eventually will coalesce around two or three players that have huge databases, plus 10 or 20 specialized services aimed at specific industries.

"But we're talking about a gradual shift," Bass said.

"Right now, this is a market that people are still trying to figure out," he said.

It was supposed to be the launch of a development *project*...

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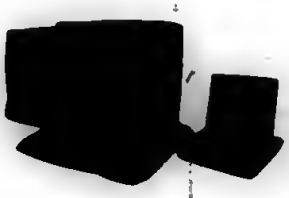

Banyan slide continues with another quarterly loss

By Laura DiDio

BANYAN SYSTEMS, INC. continues to bleed red ink.

The Westboro, Mass.-based company announced last week that its fourth-quarter loss totaled $28.6 million, compared with a loss of $17.3 million during the same period a year ago.

Banyan's revenue plunged nearly 40% for the quarter, to $17.2 million. The latest results include charges of $5.5 million and an $8 million deferred tax write-off.

Company officials pointed out that losses would have been $12.6 million if the one-time charges were excluded.

CONTRACTING BASE

Analysts said they weren't surprised by Banyan's poor showing and predicted it will be difficult for the company to return to profitability with its current lineup of products.

Matt Cain, an analyst at Meta Group, Inc. in Stamford, Conn., said, "Clearly, the Vines installed base is contracting. The best that Banyan can hope for is that Vines customers don't toss Banyan altogether but instead opt to deploy StreetTalk for Windows NT as part of their network operating system migration plans."

Cain said Banyan's murky financial picture hasn't affected the technology.

"Vines and StreetTalk work just fine, and even if Banyan were to shut its doors, users would still be supported. And Banyan does have a viable revenue stream from service, support and maintenance," he said.

But one longtime Vines user, who requested anonymity, expressed dismay over Banyan's ongoing decline. "The doom-and-gloom prognosis for Banyan would be amusing if I didn't have so much invested. I just have to hope Microsoft ships Windows NT 5.0 later this year. Clearly, Vines and StreetTalk are not our strategic platform," he said.

REBUILDING APPLE

Amelio: Yes, we have a crisis

▶ *Apple shuffles executives, gives founders roles*

By Lisa Picarille
CUPERTINO, CALIF.

COMMON WISDOM dictates that the first step to recovery is admitting the problem. At last week's annual shareholders meeting, Apple Computer, Inc.'s chairman and CEO Gilbert Amelio acknowledged Apple is a company in crisis.

Amelio outlined five crisis areas, including liquidity, quality, operating system strategy, corporate culture and fragmentation of focus. And he laid out Apple's plans to overcome those problems.

In a bold move, Amelio suspended the company's generous executive cash bonuses until Apple turns a profit. The move came less than a month after the company reported a $120 million loss. Observers said suspension of bonuses could save millions of dollars. Amelio earned more than $2.3 million in bonuses last year, according to Apple.

Apple officials have also acknowledged the need to cut operating expenses by $400 million — or 25% — and that will mean a hefty workforce reduction. Details will be forthcoming in March, Apple said.

The day before the meeting, Apple announced an executive reshuffling intended to streamline operations and renew enthusiasm in the company.

Under the plan, Steve Wozniak will join Apple's other cofounder, Steve Jobs, as a member of the executive committee and play an advisory role to Amelio. The following changes were also announced:

- Guerrino De Luca, president of Apple subsidiary Claris Corp., was named to head a unified marketing group that will also be responsible for developer relations and operating system licensing efforts.
- Apple plans to split research and development into two parts. Hardware will be overseen by John Rubenstein, formerly of Fire Power Systems, Inc. Avie Tevanian from Next Software, Inc. will head software efforts.
- Ellen Hancock, formerly chief technology officer, will oversee a technology office that includes the advanced technology group, quality assurance, the chief scientist and all Apple fellows.
- Marco Landi, formerly chief operations officer, will head up worldwide sales.
- George Scalise will cover a mixed bag, including legal, manufacturing and Apple's imaging group.

"We barely had enough cash to conduct day-to-day business – to meet payroll, to fund receivables, to pay bills."
– CEO Gilbert Amelio, describing the situation when he joined Apple

"Today their chances of survival are higher than yesterday," said Charles Wolf, an analyst at Credit Suisse First Boston Corp., a New York investment banking firm. "It now looks like they have the right people in the right positions, and since getting their house in order should be their most urgent objective. I take this as a good sign."

Another good sign, according to industry watchers, is that Apple is finally admitting the obvious.

"Today, with the stock at such a low point, I think I would be in denial if I stood up here and didn't own up to the fact that we have been dealing with a crisis and we are still very much in a crisis and I am going to deal with it like a crisis situation," Amelio said.

What should Apple do? Everyone has an opinion

By Lisa Picarille

ONE YEAR AFTER taking charge at Apple, Gilbert Amelio's three-year operation to revive the ailing company has run into complications.

So *Computerworld* asked users and analysts to write a prescription for Apple's return to good health. Here is a sampling of their ideas:

"Apple has to concentrate on beefing up the portables line; improving and managing the [operating system] road map, especially with its dual [operating system] strategy; provide better marketing for Power Macs and Performas to help boost market share; and make sure it keeps developers interested in the platform."
— Kevin Hause, an analyst at International Data Corp. in Mountain View, Calif.

"Lou Gerstner has done an unbelievable job at IBM. He is always talking to his counterparts in large organizations. I don't think that is a bad model to follow."
— Stuart Greenfield, a systems analyst for the state of Texas in Austin

"Apple should concentrate on Web development, the integration of Web design and database information. Because the Mac is the easiest platform for Web content creation, it is my first choice."
— Neil Nevares, manager of publications and new media at The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia

"They should make a plan and stick with it. They should stop changing directions. Just say they're going to do something and actually follow through."
— John Pope, partner at The Carson Group, a financial services firm in New York that uses Macintoshes

"Aligning with other industry players, like Microsoft [Corp.] and Novell [Software, Inc.], has made me feel more comfortable about Apple's position."
— Michael Purdy, a secondary computer education specialist at the Plymouth Public School District in Plymouth, Mass.

"They need to make people understand that the Mac is a first-class business machine. Apple needs to get this across to people so they know the Mac can easily be integrated into corporate environments."
— Tom Powers, project administrator in aircraft engineering at Memphis-based Federal Express Corp.

"It is imperative that Apple gets its operations model in sync with the reality of their business. That means getting their production model down to comparable Wintel economics, while continuing to increase the number of models and building with common parts."
— Charles Wolf, an analyst at Credit Suisse First Boston Corp., a New York investment banking firm

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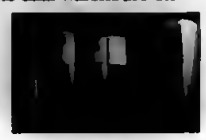

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OPINION

IRS warning Congratulations, IRS. You've set records for IT failure and hubris in project ambition.

The $4 billion price for the IRS' collapsed modernization project goes beyond taxpayer dollars. And it's more than just another blow to the public-image punching bag that has become our government.

The IRS fiasco is a sonic boom that warns any organization that modernizes its computer systems against the Big Bang approach.

Take heed, all you who are working on year 2000 projects. It may be the biggest task you have tackled. Make sure the steps leading to the goal are on track. Take lots of measurements along the way.

That kind of strategy certainly wasn't in evidence in Washington. It's true, agencies such as the IRS should modernize their computers. The Federal Aviation Administration's air-traffic control upgrades are another investment need.

But why can't these people take it one step — maybe $100 million — at a time? Show success on one point before leaping to another?

For years, the IRS defended its efforts — and the do-a-dozen-things-at-once approach. Now the agency admits it was all a waste. It doesn't have "the intellectual capital" to fix its problems. It may have to outsource the processing of tax returns.

Are you surprised? Try that kind of grand plan — and cope with an avalanche of technological changes? Keep focused on a bunch of long-range bull's-eyes — and deal with top management turnover? Remain mindful of changing presidents and Congress waiting to call you on the C-SPAN carpet?

Give us a break. The IRS should have stopped this disaster at drawing-board time.

Michael Goldberg

Michael Goldberg, *Assistant sections editor*
Internet: *michael_goldberg@cw.com*

LETTERS

Animal geography lesson

IN THE "HAL is born" story [CW, Jan. 6], Marvin Minsky said, "Just like there are lions and tigers, and they compete for the same antelopes."

Lions are found mainly in Africa, with a few in India. Tigers are found in Asia. Most people mistakenly think that they live together.

Patrick Callahan
Washington

Plea for Finance & Investing

I WANT TO COMMEND you on an excellent newspaper. It is the main publication I read regularly.

But a recent change has disappointed me immensely: the removal of the Finance & Investing section. I thought that was a great section, and I would advise adding it back to your magazine. It is greatly missed.

Rollie Mellberg
Grand Rapids, Mich.

Recruiting starts in-house

AS DIRECTOR of marketing for an executive search firm focused solely on the data networking and internetworking marketplace, I read *Computerworld*'s "People Who Need People" article [CW, Jan. 13] with interest.

Yes, finding IS talent is difficult in every discipline. But IS executives and managers have worked from employment applications for too long. Gone are the days when a job got posted or an advertisement run in the Sunday paper and hundreds of resumes arrived from which to cull a few good staffers.

IS executives and managers now have to sell the benefits of their organizations to employment candidates. They must profile for success patterns and personality, understand and document position expectations and commitments to employees. They must develop benefit programs, skills improvement plans, flexible work options and employee satisfaction monitoring systems to not only attract but retain valuable IS employees.

IS has to sell a firm's benefits to job recruits

If an IS executive cannot sell the value of his or her department to company insiders, what makes them believe they have the skills required to make this "sale" to new recruits?

Judy Smith
Fast Switch Ltd.
Dublin, Ohio

Windows CE is proprietary

IN YOUR Jan. 6 Marketplace article on handhelds, "Handhelds grasp for acceptance," you write: "Perhaps most important, Windows CE will remove a barrier — which was created by the use of proprietary operating systems. . . ."

Please, *Computerworld*, words have meanings. Windows CE is a proprietary system. If you don't believe me, ask Microsoft.

Daniel P. B. Smith
Tewksbury, Mass.

Do it the SAP way or no way

LET ME GET this straight. After executives have spent millions of dollars to buy SAP R/3 ["SAP recasts R/3 for out-of-the box use," CW, Jan. 6], they need to spend $750 more to find out what they bought? And then they find out that they "must make radical changes in how they do business to get the software's full benefits."

Sounds like "Have it our way" would be a great slogan for this software.

Brandon Musler
Nashua, N.H.

Painful self-promotion

THE INCLUSION of Judith Hurwitz's column on *Computerworld*'s Viewpoint page ["Three-tier is passe. Here comes Hyper-Tier!" CW, Jan. 13] highlighting her "trademarked" term "Hyper-Tier" reminds me of something that happened long ago. When I was a preadolescent, all my friends and I use to stand around the school yard trying to think up new dirty words.

Actually, I think that was a more productive exercise than "multi-tier." Please spare us the pain of reading an obvious self-promotion article. The world outside the computer industry already thinks that we invent a word a day just to confuse.

John O'Brien
Lawrence O'Brien, Inc.
Gaithersburg, Md.

Computerworld welcomes comments from its readers. Letters shouldn't exceed 200 words and should be addressed to Maryfran Johnson, Executive Editor, Computerworld, PO Box 9171, 500 Old Connecticut Path, Framingham, Mass. 01701. Fax number: (508) 875-8931; Internet: letters@cw.com. Please include an address and phone number for verification.

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12. Vice President, Asst. Vice President
13. Treasurer, Controller, Financial Officer

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT
51. Sales & Mktg. Management
70. Medical, Legal, Accounting Mgt.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL MANAGEMENT
80. Information Centers/Libraries, Educators, Journalists, Students
90. Other Titled Personnel

3. Do you use, evaluate, specify, recommend, purchase (Circle all that apply.)
Operating Systems
(a) Solaris (e) Mac OS
(b) Netware (f) Windows NT
(c) OS/2 (g) Windows
(d) Unix (h) NeXTstep
App. Development Products ❒ Yes ❒ No
Networking Products ❒ Yes ❒ No
Internet Products ❒ Yes ❒ No

4. Which of the following products do you buy, specify, recommend or approve the purchase of? (Check all that apply.)
(a) ❒ Internet software
(b) ❒ Internet browsers
(c) ❒ Web authoring/development tools

5. Do you use the Internet? ❒ Yes ❒ No

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30. Medical/Law/Education
40. Wholesale/Retail/Trade
50. Business Service (except DP)
60. Government - State/Federal/Local
65. Communications Systems/Public Utilities/Transportation
70. Mining/Construction/Petroleum/ Refining/Agriculture
80. Manufacturer of Computers, Computer-Related Systems or Peripherals
85. Systems Integrators, VARs, Computer Service Bureaus, Software Planning & Consulting Services
90. Computer/Peripheral Dealer/Dist./ Retailer
95. Other_____ (Please Specify)

2. TITLE/FUNCTION (Circle one)
IS/MIS/DP MANAGEMENT
19. Chief Information Officer/Vice President/Asst. VP IS/MIS/DP Management
21. Dir./Mgr. MIS Services, Information Center
22. Dir./Mgr. Network Sys., Data/Tele Comm., LAN Mgr./PC Mgr., Tech. Planning, Administrative Services
23. Dir./Mgr. Sys. Development, System Architecture
31. Programming Management, Software Developers
41. Engineering, Scientific, R&D, Tech. Management
60. Sys. Integrators/VARs/Consulting Management

CORPORATE MANAGEMENT
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Operating Systems
(a) Solaris (e) Mac OS
(b) Netware (f) Windows NT
(c) OS/2 (g) Windows
(d) Unix (h) NeXTstep
App. Development Products ❒ Yes ❒ No
Networking Products ❒ Yes ❒ No
Internet Products ❒ Yes ❒ No

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Mortal combat over corporate E-mail

Patricia B. Seybold

Microsoft is engaged in two strategic battles for the hearts and minds of computer users. The outcome of each is likely to affect your future. One strategy focuses on the consumer online market; the other focuses on corporate computing. Both are pivotal to Microsoft's future.

For some time now, Bill Gates has had America Online in his sights. He envies AOL's remarkable ability to create a "branded online community" that lures consumers online. Whether you're an amateur pilot, s chess aficionado or an organic gardener, AOL has a user group for you.

Gates has watched the rise and fall of AOL, and now he's ready to strike. America Online's Steve Case has played right into Gates' hands through chronic inattention to customer service and through the pricing fiasco that generated more demand than AOL can handle.

Microsoft has targeted two key markets: online consumers and corporate messaging.

Microsoft promises to beat America Online at its own game. First, the Microsoft Network (MSN) is now a branded section of the Internet with special-interest groups and services for every major city, including movie and restaurant reviews and lots of local news and sports.

Second, Microsoft excels in customer service. You won't have to wait 15 minutes on an overburdened help line at MSN. Third, Microsoft has invested in an easily extended infrastructure. By outsourcing the MSN plumbing, Microsoft has no capacity constraints. Telephone lines and servers are added as needed to keep up with demand.

Microsoft's second strategy hinges on corporate E-mail systems. What Microsoft has realized in the past six months is that he who owns the corporate E-mail controls the entire account.

Here's how it works. Once an organization decides to standardize on an E-mail package, the dominoes start to fall. After E-mail standardization typically comes the standardization of office applications, so users can attach documents, spreadsheets and databases to E-mail and know that they can be used by the recipients.

Then you'll want servers that can host departmental office applications and local databases and function as World Wide Web servers. Even if you dedicate different servers for different functions, it makes sense to use one operating system on all servers. It creates a more manageable environment. So the E-mail decision sets as the keystone for your entire IS architecture.

That's what Microsoft is betting on. And that's why Microsoft is engaged in a to-the-death battle with IBM/Lotus over corporate E-mail sccounts. The battle is being fought hand-to-hand, one company st a time, throughout the world. This is where Bill Gates pits himself against Lou Gerstner.

Can Microsoft win on both the consumer and corporate fronts? Unless America Online can miraculously upgrade its infrastructure and customer service within three months, Microsoft is likely to be very successful in taking away its customers.

It remains to be seen whether Microsoft can become the premier supplier of online consumer services.

In corporate America, IBM and Lotus are holding their own and giving Microsoft s run for its money. However, Microsoft's product line is much more consistent and unified with Windows NT at its core. The fact that Lotus Notes is a match for Microsoft's Exchange and that Lotus' Domino is a competitive Web server may not be enough to keep the dominoes from falling in Microsoft's favor.

Seybold is president of Patricia Seybold Group in Boston. Her Internet address is pseybold@psgroup.com.

Why we prefer a bumbling IRS

Michael Schrage

As the experts figure it, the IRS has spent — wasted? — somewhere between $3 billion and $4 billion on its ongoing, failed effort to modernize its computer systems. As the late Sen. Everett Dirksen (R-Ill.) once observed, "A billion here and a billion there, and pretty soon you're talking about real money."

This computational money pit reportedly cost the most recent IRS commissioner her job.

No doubt the IRS initiatives to move from mainframes to minis to distributed computing to client/server to — yes! — intranets will make a heck of a Harvard Business School study someday. Multibillion-dollar disasters always make entertaining reading.

But let's imagine a different scenario. Let's picture an IRS that defines the state-of-the-art in information management, data mining, real-time interaction, superb privacy management, instant filings and instant deductions via the Internet... the works.

Let's imagine the IRS as a completely, utterly, ruthlessly efficient agency tracking income and revenues for business and individuals alike. Think about that for a moment.

Did you get the same ominous shivers rippling through your intestines that I did?

A truly effective IRS — an IRS capable of instantly tracking down and computationally enforcing the thousands of pages that make up our tax code — would likely prove a living hell for America. Imagine an IRS audit of every payment you make or receive and every trip to the ATM. Think that lunch or ticket is deductible? The IRS E-mail-of-the-future tells you it isn't. Or your claim will be analyzed by s new artificial-intelligence package designed for people in your income category.

Your business has independent contractors? Almost instantly, the IRS tracks you in real time to see if your hiring practices represent a tax dodge.

How ironic. How perverse. Maybe society is better off with an IRS that lags comfortably behind the IT median. Maybe we don't want our auditors to be *too* efficient and *too* effective.

I'm not excusing in any way, shape or form the hideous mismanagement of the IT function st the IRS.

Then again, you've got to wonder whether there's more going on here than just a government screwup.

The IRS story reminds me of the horrible attrition rate of most CIOs in most organizations. Can so many people be so incompetent? Or, in reality, does the CIO turn out to be not a technology leader but the IT counterpart of the miner's canary?

Don't snicker. There are corporate IT fiascos, too.

Miners' canaries die soon after the fumes of poison gases hit; CIOs get fired soon after the systems they are supposed to implement can't or won't do the job.

But why is that? Because CIOs so grotesquely mismanage expectations and technology? Or because organizations discover that implementing the systems might have political, organizational and economic implications that they aren't yet ready to manage? You make the call.

There is no shortage of mismanagement in IT in both the public and private sector. But there is also no shortage of organizations that preach effectiveness and efficiency and then take steps to ensure they can be sttained. Pathological? Dysfunctional? You bet.

That's the reality for many mission-critical IT projects in the '90s. Just look in your own organizations and deny it.

Schrage is a research associate at the MIT Media Lab in Cambridge, Mass., and author of No More Teams! *His Internet address is schrage@media.mit.edu.*

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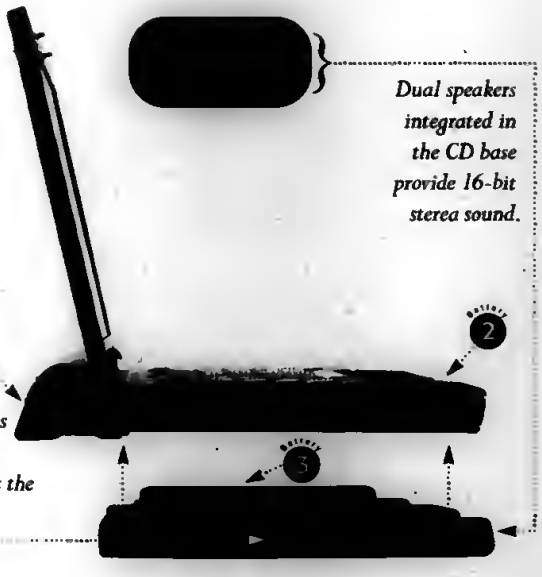

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COMMENTARY

Convergence begets conflict

DAVID MOSCHELLA

Given the ongoing convergence of computers and communications, it isn't surprising that the interests of computer makers and data communications equipment companies are beginning to overlap and conflict. But the stakes this year will become much higher than many customers and investors realize. Consider the case of network interface cards, which have historically been viewed as a minor commodity product.

In recent weeks, network card roarket leader 3Com has embarked on a Network Ready campaign that allows designated PC suppliers — Dell, Gateway 2000, Acer and 16 others — to configure their PCs with 3Com products. The theory is that because almost all new PCs are networked in some way, PCs should be delivered with whatever capabilities the customer requires. 3Com hopes this program will help expand its lead over archrival Intel. Indeed, it must have been tempting to label the Network Ready initiative "3Com inside."

Preinstalling customer-defined network functions isn't a new idea, but more thorough configurations and testing can provide real value to customers. This integrated approach is particularly well-suited to the build-to-order business model of vendors such as Dell and Gateway. So far, so good.

But notably absent from the Network Ready initiative are IBM, Compaq, Hewlett-Packard and Digital, which happen to be four of the top eight business PC suppliers. All four companies also happen to make network cards, but none is an overall market leader.

3Com's campaign highlights the sharply different strategic positions. 3Com, the top card vendor, has courted many smaller PC companies that don't make network cards. In contrast, the PC companies that make them obviously prefer to sell their own; these companies happen to be some of the industry's biggest enterprise PC suppliers. Intel, which has tremendous influence over all PC companies and is No. 1 in the network interface card market, remains a powerful wild card.

Which way should customers lean? First, you might want to consider the results of *Computerworld*'s recent enterprise network customer satisfaction survey. Responses from about 1,500 users of network cards show that 3Com's customers are considerably more satisfied than those of IBM, Compaq and Digital. But 3Com maintained only a small edge over Intel and finished in a statistical dead heat with HP.

The data suggests that cooperation among 3Com, Gateway, Dell and Acer could work to the advantage of all four parties. Then again, given the close relationship between Intel and HP, future cooperation between those two wouldn't be surprising. IBM has strong networking ties with 3Com, just as Compaq does with Cisco. Digital, like Bay Networks, looks increasingly weak and isolated.

Indeed, as the small-business and remote-access markets explode, it will become increasingly difficult to separate network card competition from the more lucrative router/switch/hub business. Here, converging technologies and standards battles will lead to alliances between computer and data communications companies that make today's network card positionings look like a warm-up act.

Moschella is senior vice president of research at Computerworld, Inc. His Internet address is david_moschella@cw.com.

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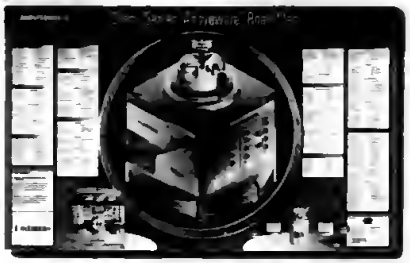

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Briefs

Q3 1996 Top 5 laptop vendors worldwide
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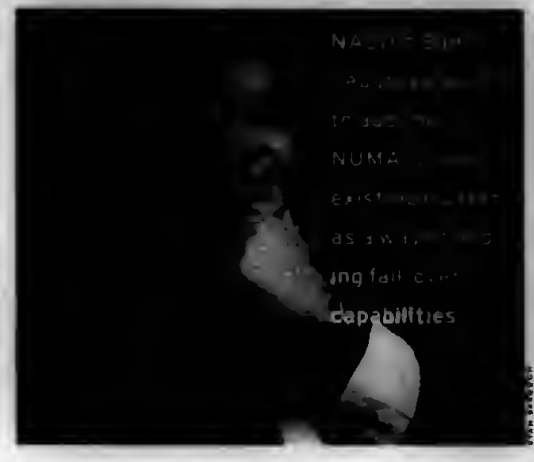
NEC	6.9%
Fujitsu	5.6%

• Sequent aims to outpower SMP

NUMA-Q out of the gate



By Charles Babcock

SEQUENT COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC. will launch its NUMA-Q architecture tomorrow in New York, and analysts said both the company and its customers have a lot riding on the outcome.

NUMA, or Non-Uniform Memory Access, is an approach to building symmetrical multiprocessing (SMP) servers that is highly engineered compared with machines that use standardized parts. While an SMP server from Compaq Computer Corp. or Dell Computer Corp. might cost $50,000, Sequent's will start at $250,000. Early users said the architecture appears to yield greater scalability and performance.

IT'S ALL IN THE NAME

NUMA gets its name from the distributed nature of the memory in its machines. The memory is located in the four-CPU quads — four-way processor boards — and in their secondary caches. Based on Intel Corp. Pentium processors, Sequent's NUMA-Q uses high-speed hardware tricks to make the operating system and applications work as if data were coming from a common memory pool, as occurs in a single-

NUMA-Q, page 40

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IBM touts low-end S/390

By Tim Ouellette

IBM'S MAINFRAMES are still fashionable at Coats Viyella Group's fashion retail division.

And the London-based group uses IBM's "entry-level" mainframe, the Multiprise 2000, to manage all of its international operations.

"Multiprise is the company's central server," said Peter Sparkes, systems support specialist at Coats Viyella. "We've resisted the move to kill off the mainframe and move to Unix."

A big reason Sparkes and others are staying is that Multiprise gives users a relatively low-cost way to maintain mainframe-type processing without buying

IBM, page 40

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AS/400, S/390 shops prepare for native apps

By Tim Ouellette

AS SOFTWARE vendors port their applications to native mainframe and midrange operating systems, S/390 and AS/400 shops can make some adjustments now to get applications on those platforms.

For example, AS/400 users now can run popular applications (such as Lotus Development Corp.'s Notes 4.1) on the AS/400's onboard PC server card.

And because OS/390 — IBM's mainframe operating system — supports Unix application programming interfaces, users can begin porting their own Unix applications to run on the S/390.

HOST SYSTEMS

Those capabilities are important because many firms want to consolidate their multiple distributed PC servers to these more reliable and scalable host systems. They don't have to wait for the native versions and can start immediately.

For example, IBM subsidiary Lotus is porting the AIX version of Domino (the World Wide Web version of Notes) to OS/390 using OS/390's native Unix support.

One S/390 site, Louisiana State University (LSU) in Baton Rouge, will run Domino on its S/390 when it is available in the fall. Until then, programmers are hard at work moving Unix applications over, said Cindy Hadden, LSU's director of administrative information systems.

In March, the S/390 also will support Windows NT applications with software from Bristol Technology, Inc. in Ridgefield, Conn.

On the AS/400 side, RISC-based versions of the midrange system can support up to 16 Intel Corp. 486-based PC processor boards. Users can now run OS/2 versions of applications such as Domino off the server.

Users said advantages include a single log-on to the AS/400 and Integrated PC Server and centralized backups because the server shares the AS/400's disk storage.

But the PC server runs only OS/2 right now, must be managed from a separate PC operator station and must use Open Database Connectivity calls to get at the AS/400's DB2/400 database. Native OS/400 versions of applications such as Domino will be available to directly query the database.

IBM officials said Intel Pentium chips will be added this spring to the Integrated PC Server, and NT will be supported sometime this year.

"We are kind of holding off for Windows NT," said Dee Kellogg, chief information officer at the American Red Cross' Atlanta chapter.

The chapter runs Windows-based reporting software — which presents AS/400 data to users in the Windows format — on a separate PC server but will move it to the AS/400 when Windows NT support is available, she said.

NUMA-Q

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 39

processor server.

Sam Laughery, vice president of production systems at the National Association of Security Dealers (NASD), said his Rockville, Md., data center has been using a 12-processor NUMA-Q machine to collect key trading information from its transaction processing systems since Dec. 13. NASD runs the Nasdaq Stock Exchange.

Laughery said he wants to add the server to an existing cluster as a way of adding fail-over capabilities, which he can't do yet.

"They set May as the deadline for clustering. We're hoping to get it earlier than that," said Laughery, who has set his sights on an April delivery date. SMP machines that operate by themselves run the risk of all processors freezing up and losing data if one processor fails. A cluster of systems with fail-over software prevents the freeze-up.

Ron Hawkins, director of information technology at Millipore Corp., said a 12-processor NUMA-Q is replacing the company's two older Sequent systems. The Bedford, Mass., producer of filtration systems now runs 350 users of its Oracle financial applications and manufacturing software on the NUMA-Q machine.

Hawkins said he is concerned that Oracle Corp. hasn't finished certifying its applications as being ready for NUMA-Q. The next release of the applications, Version 10.7, is due in May, he said.

Although Sequent officials seem to like to talk about the possibility of a 252-processor machine, customers must wait until May to get the capability to expand their 12-processor NUMA-Q servers to 16 CPUs.

At NASD, officials said it will be worth the wait. Ed Morgan, director of technical support, said the 12-processor NUMA-Q machine appears to deliver two to three times the performance of a 10-processor predecessor Symmetry model running the same application.

"They've pushed out the scalability fence in a single-image machine," Hawkins said. Both NASD and Millipore found that they could move their application software from earlier Symmetry models to NUMA-Q without difficulty.

THE COMPETITION

Competing NUMA machines are on the way from Sun Microsystems, Inc., based on the SPARC architecture, and Silicon Graphics, Inc., based on MIPS RISC processors. Data General Corp. in Westboro, Mass., also has an Intel-based NUMA server on the market.

Analysts pointed out that Intel has a stake in the NUMA architecture too because Sequent's design represents one of the few ways Intel microprocessors can mount a challenge to the continued reign of the mainframe at the high end of the enterprise computing chain. The Intel high-performance computing division is in Hillsboro, Ore., just down the road from Sequent in Beaverton.

Michael Burwen, a partner at Palo Alto Management Group, a research firm in Palo Alto, Calif., said he believes other vendors, including IBM, will incorporate NUMA designs into their server lines. So far, IBM has relied on a parallel architecture for its RS/6000 SP line, but Burwen said NUMA is a competitive approach because it can incorporate several quads without SMP's usual performance falloff.

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IBM touts S/390

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 39

an expensive machine with more power than they need.

Analysts said the system, announced last fall, is aimed at S/390 shops that don't expect to see their mainframe processing needs expand greatly or that want to segregate some applications on a stand-alone machine.

The Multiprise 2000 uses CMOS processors that don't meet the requirements of IBM's high-end S/390 systems but still offer users up to 37 MIPS of processing power in uniprocessor models. The system also comes bundled with optional software packages and services.

"We were introduced to more than just a new machine" when upgrading from our old mainframe, Sparkes said. "We were offered upgrades to the software, maintenance and a whole support package behind it as well."

And IBM last week began shipping an internal disk subsystem with the Multiprise, which analysts said reduces storage costs and is the only such offering in the S/390 line.

"They've stolen a play out of the PC server world," said Mike Kahn, chairman of The Clipper Group, Inc. in Wellesley, Mass. "With Multiprise, IBM is running everything as lean and mean as they can."

Mike Walter, VM systems programmer at Hewitt Associates LLC in Lincolnshire, Ill., said the new machine's environmental benefits alone are a bonus. The Multiprise — the size of an average refrigerator — replaced an older machine that took up much more space and needed expensive cooling systems, he said.

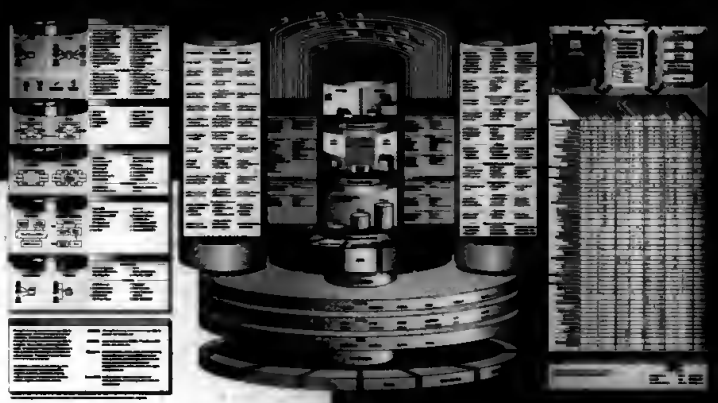
MORE FLEXIBILITY

Sparkes said Coats Viyella also chose Multiprise for its internal open systems adapter, which would support the company's move to a TCP/IP backbone.

With such features in the Multiprise, along with high-end features such as the parallel sysplex clustering found in separate S/390 models, observers said users have more options than ever to buy mainframe processing power.

"[S/390] customers have tremendous flexibility for analyzing workloads and choosing platforms," said John Young, a Clipper analyst. "They don't have to assume anymore that they should throw everything on to one giant machine."

Client/Server "Middleware " Road Map



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Client/Server "Middleware™" Road Map

So many software tools... So much confusion...

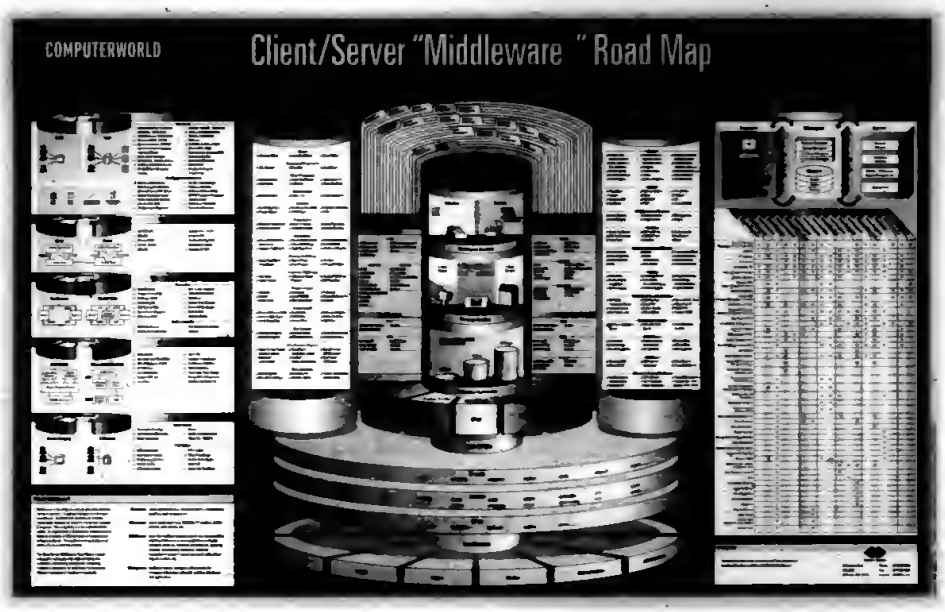
This special White Paper was written independently of Computerworld by Jeff Tash, president of Database Decisions, a division of Hewitt Associates, LLC.

Middleware is responsible for enabling clients to communicate with servers. There are numerous middleware products used to build client/server systems.

An organization's client/server infrastructure is made up of dozens of different types of hardware and software products. The problem is trying to figure out which ones to use for which tasks. This is where the *Client/Server Middleware Road Map* can help.

The Client/Server Middleware Road Map is a visual *infographic* wall poster that helps demystify the complexity surrounding client/server computing by providing a framework that describes the numerous categories of client/server tools. By helping IT professionals think about various product offerings, the framework provided by the Client/Server Middleware Road Map reduces the risk of erroneous product comparisons between "apples" and "oranges."

© 1997, Jeffrey B. Tash Middleware is a trademark of Database Decisions and Hewitt Associates, LLC.



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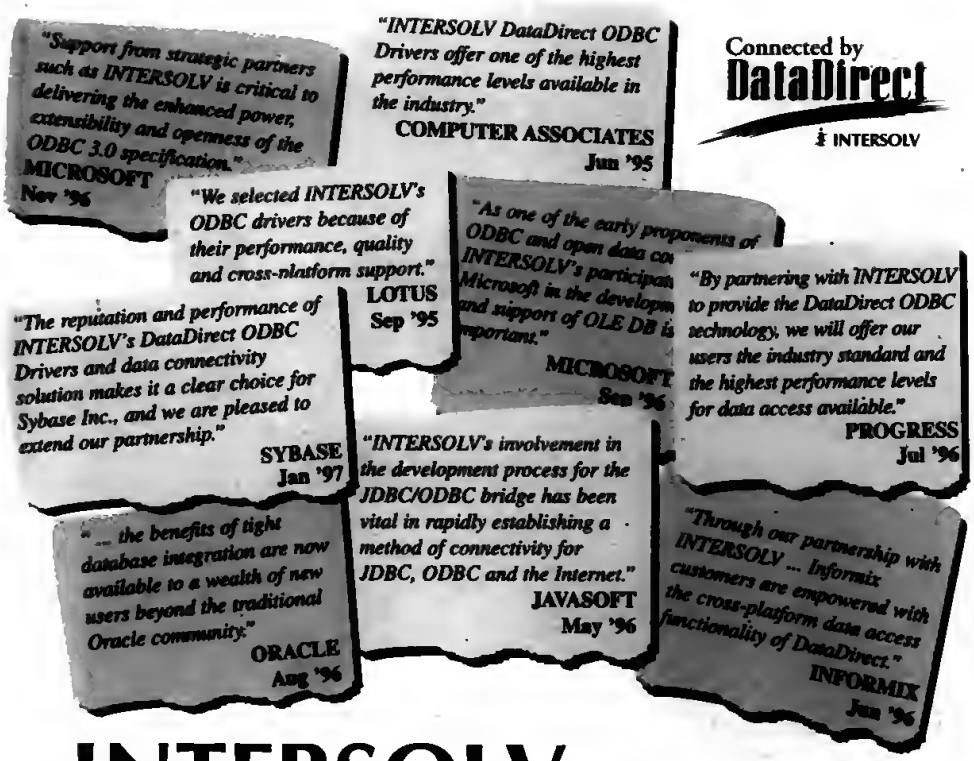

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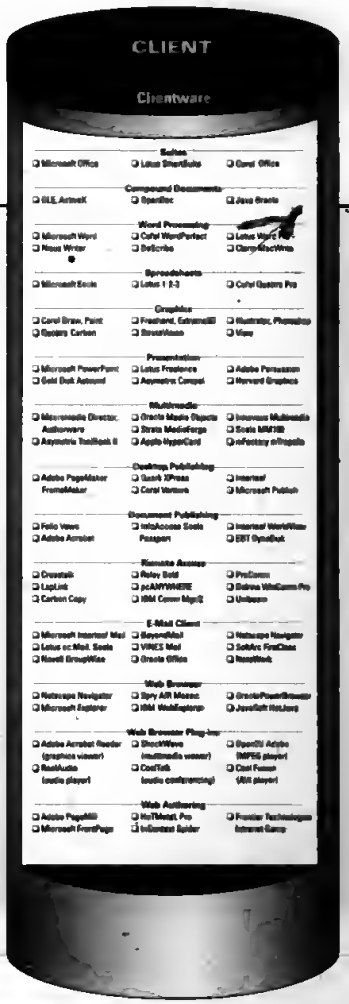
The need for guidelines and structure to describe open client/server computing is widely acknowledged. Numerous vendor architectures have been put forth over the years. Perhaps the most comprehensive is IBM's Open Blueprint. So that IBM products could better interoperate with other vendor's offerings, Open Blueprint was created based around numerous industry consortium standards such as OSF's Distributed Computing Environment (DCE), OMG's Common Object Request Broker Architecture (CORBA), and the Open Group's (formerly X/Open) Distributed Transaction Processing framework. Additional vendor-developed architectures include Microsoft's WOSA (Windows Open Services Architecture), Sun's ONC (Open Network Computing), Netscape's ONE (Open Network Environment), and Oracle's NCA (Network Computing Architecture). The Client/Server Middleware Road Map is a *vendor-independent* architectural framework.

The Client/Server Middleware Road Map describes distributed computing in terms of four classes of products:

1. **Clientware**
2. **Serverware**
3. **Middleware**
4. **Manageware**



Clientware

Any description of client/server must begin with a specification of the client's underlying hardware platform and operating system. Why is the client so important? Because there are millions and millions of clients installed worldwide.

Clientware categories include: suites, compound documents, word processing, spreadsheets, graphics, presentation, multimedia, desktop publishing, remote access, E-mail clients, Web browsers, browser plug-ins and Web authoring tools. Products representative of each category are presented at left.

Wintel dominates client market

One environment — Wintel — dominates the client marketplace (i.e., Microsoft's Windows operating system coupled with Intel's x86 and Pentium hardware chips). The reason for Wintel's dominance is not because Microsoft's operating systems are so technologically superior. They're not. In fact, for most customers, operating systems are not really all that important. What is important, though, are applications. It just so happens that applications require operating systems in order to run.

The key to Microsoft's success has been its ability to attract independent software vendors (ISVs) to build for the Wintel platform. This poses a huge challenge for hardware and operating system vendors who must compete against Wintel. On the one hand, ISVs prefer to target their clientware products to run on Wintel because most installed client platforms are Wintel-based. On the other hand, customers prefer to purchase Wintel-based platforms because the widest selection of quality software is almost always Wintel-compatible.

It is the third-party products that add value on top of Windows that have propelled Microsoft to its industry leadership position on the desktop. Of course, Microsoft itself has also become a major supplier of clientware applications. Products such as Word, Excel and Powerpoint have become market share leaders in their respective clientware categories. In addition, Microsoft's bundling strategy has

Serverware

Wintel may rule the client side, but on the server side there is still no dominant platform. Instead, intense competition exists among UNIX, Windows NT, NetWare and OS/2 Warp. In addition, many sites are deploying legacy systems as servers (e.g., IBM MVS and OS/400, Digital OpenVMS or HP MPE/ix).

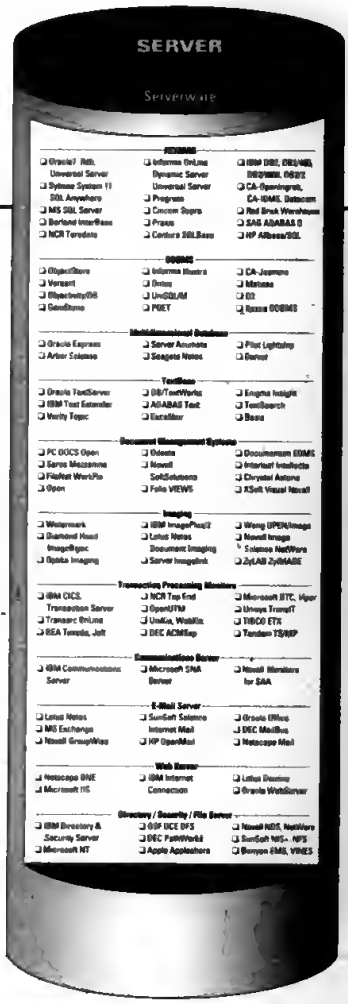
UNIX offers many advantages. It is currently the most open, robust, portable, scalable and industrial-strength operating environment. It can easily accommodate the rigorous requirements of 24x7 processing. It is supported by numerous hardware vendors, including Sun, IBM, HP and Digital. It offers superb software development tools, and ISVs have developed a wide variety of quality products for it.

Microsoft hopes to challenge UNIX with NT. NT's biggest selling points are that it is cheap, compatible with Windows 95 at the API level, and highly portable (NT ports currently run on Intel, Alpha, MIPS and PowerPC processors). NT also features simple installation and administration (your mother could install NT, a claim no vendor can make regarding UNIX).

Microsoft is partnering with hardware firms such as NCR, Digital and Sequent to achieve higher levels of performance scalability than the 4-way symmetrical multiprocessing supported by the shrink-wrapped version of the product.

NT's biggest weakness is its lack of maturity, especially compared to UNIX. It's probably not yet ready for full 24x7 operations.

The key to the success of both UNIX and Windows NT is the rich set of *serverware* commercially available on both platforms. Categories of serverware, which represents the applications that run on the server, include: DBMSs (relational, object, multidimensional and text); document management systems; imaging systems,



been enormously successful — the Microsoft office suite of tools has been installed on millions of desktops.

A look at Apple Computer's current business woes demonstrates just how tough it is to compete against Wintel. For years, Apple's Macintosh has been affectionately referred to as the Betamax of PCs. You might recall that originally, in the world of VCRs, Sony's Betamax technology was seen as significantly better than VHS (the technology used by Sony's competitors). Unfortunately for Sony, whenever a customer went into a video store to rent a movie, they found that the most popular titles were available only in VHS format. It didn't take long for people to abandon their Betamax VCRs and replace them with VHS models.

Apple is experiencing a similar problem today. Even though Apple has long been considered the undisputed technology leader in the PC industry — having pioneered the easy-to-use graphic user interface (GUI) and a mouse interface — today the company is fighting for its very survival. Many Macintosh customers are migrating to Wintel. The biggest problem facing the Mac is that the newest and hottest software runs first and runs best on Windows.

This is the same problem that has plagued IBM's OS/2 Warp since its inception. It's a great operating system, but IBM has never been able to attract ISVs to build "killer apps" that run natively only on OS/2.

transaction processing monitors; communication servers; E-mail servers; Web servers; and directory, security and file servers.

Microsoft is banking on the fact that its serverware BackOffice bundling efforts on the NT Server will duplicate its success on the client side with desktop Office. BackOffice includes SQL Server, Exchange Server, SNA Server, System Management Server (SMS), Transaction Server and Internet Information Server (IIS). IBM has countered with a cross-platform family of modular *software servers* that run oo AIX, OS/2 Warp Server and Windows NT. IBM's serverware products include DB2, Lotus Notes, Communications Server, Tivoli Management Server, Transactioo Server (Encina and CICS), Internet Connection Server and Lotus Domino.

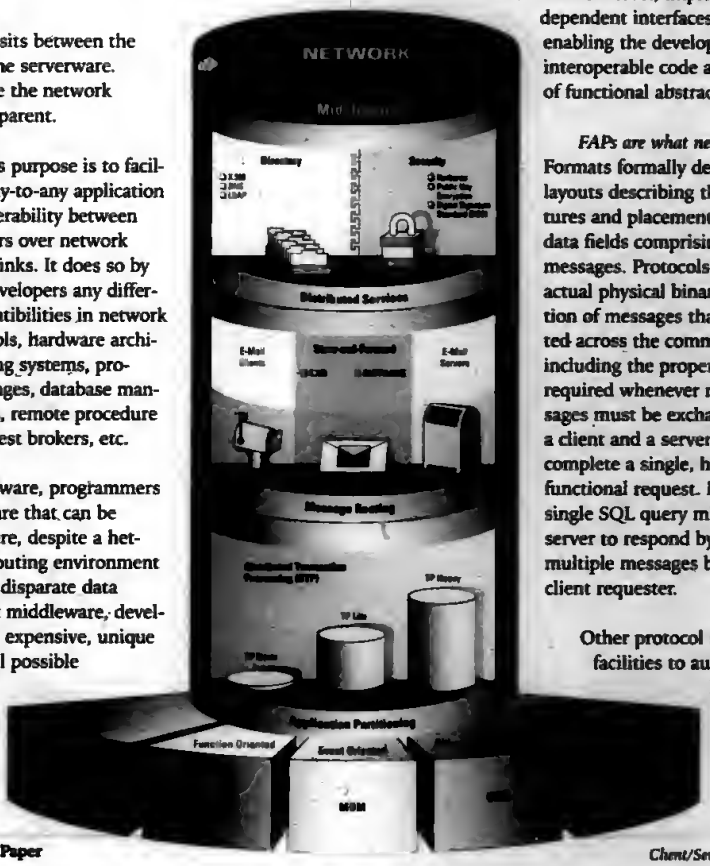
Products representative of each serverware category are listed in the illustration at left.

Middleware

Middleware sits between the clientware and the serverware. Its job is to make the network completely transparent.

Middleware's purpose is to facilitate seamless any-to-any application software interoperability between clients and servers over network communication links. It does so by masking from developers any differences or incompatibilities in network transport protocols, hardware architectures, operating systems, programming languages, database management systems, remote procedure calls, object request brokers, etc.

With middleware, programmers can create software that can be executed anywhere, despite a heterogeneous computing environment and/or multiple, disparate data sources. Without middleware, developers must write expensive, unique code to handle all possible combinations of back-end processing environments.



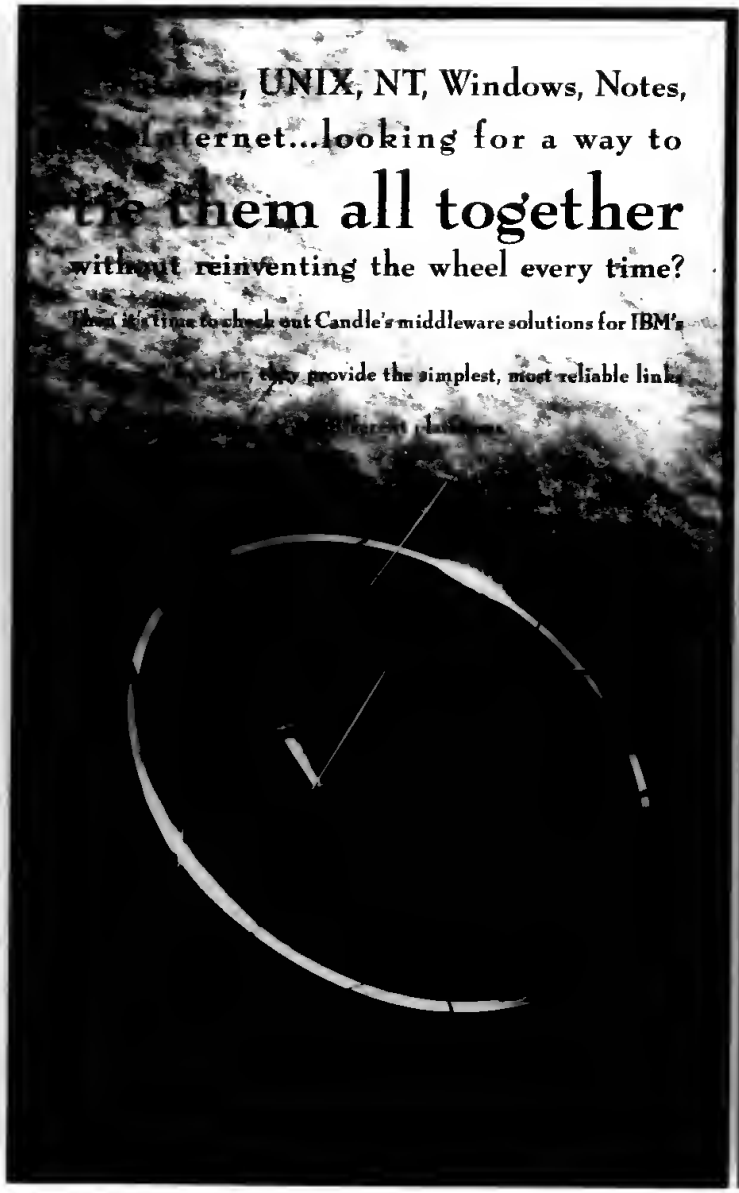
Middleware consists of two key ingredients:
1. APIs — Application Programming Interfaces
2. FAPs — Formats And Protocols

APIs are what programs see. APIs formally define how a programmer invokes a function. Examples of distributed functions include remote file access, remote database access, remote procedure calls, or remote message sending between distributed objects.

The primary goal of APIs is to make the network completely transparent to the developer. For instance, it should make no difference to a program issuing a SQL database call whether the request is physically transmitted over a TCP/IP link or an IPX/SPX connection. Similarly, the middleware should conceal from the developer the target DBMS. Ideally, it shouldn't matter to the calling program whether the SQL request is directed against Oracle, Informix, Sybase, DB2, SQL Server or any other SQL-compliant DBMS server. The middleware's job is to hide low-level, implementation-dependent interfaces, thereby enabling the developer to write interoperable code at a high level of functional abstraction.

FAPs are what networks see. Formats formally define the bit layouts describing the data structures and placement of elemental data fields comprising individual messages. Protocols define the actual physical binary representation of messages that are transmitted across the communication link, including the proper sequencing required whenever multiple messages must be exchanged between a client and a server in order to complete a single, high-level functional request. For example, a single SQL query might require the server to respond by transmitting multiple messages back to the client requester.

Other protocol services include facilities to automatically handle such tasks as datatype translations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between big-endian and little-endian hardware architectures, or datatype conversions like ASCII-to-EBCDIC, or packed decimal-to-floating point.

Middleware is the software responsible for translating APIs into FAPs.

Middleware products fit into three categories of services:

1. Distributed Services
2. Message Routing
3. Application Partitioning

Distributed services provide facilities for an integrated set of directory and security services.

Message routing supports the time-delayed, store-and-forward transmission of data files, especially E-mail documents.

Application partitioning deals with controlling the portion of executable transaction logic that resides on the client, and the portion that runs on the server. Transaction management can be provided by either a DBMS (i.e., TP Lite) or a TP Monitor (i.e., TP Heavy). Applications can be partitioned based on the *fat client* model (data-oriented), *RPCs* (function-oriented), *MOMs* (event-oriented), *ORBs* (object-oriented), or the *thin client* model (screen-oriented).

Distributed Services

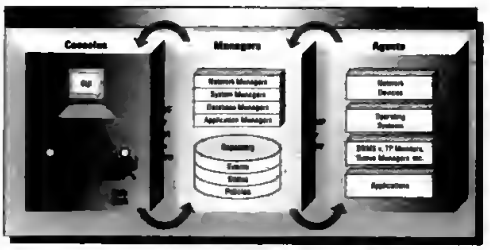
Distributed services refer to those facilities absolutely required to support a network operating system. Distributed services provide an integrated set of directory and security capabilities that are literally zipped together for total cohesion. The directory allows users to refer to resources by name rather than network address. Security ensures that only those users who have specifically been granted permission by the owner of a resource are allowed to access that resource. Unauthorized users are restricted.

Access control can be thought of in terms of a spreadsheet where users correspond to rows and resources correspond to columns. Each intersecting cell of the spreadsheet contains access control rights. To simplify systems administration, distributed services generally allow the creation of groups, or domains, of users and resources.

As client/server computing has matured, standards have evolved. Standards provide the key to building *open systems*. The emergence of a standard reduces risk by minimizing the number of alternative choices, thereby maximizing both portability and interoperability. Portability enables an application to be easily moved from one platform to another. Interoperability provides the coordination mechanism to allow different applications to easily interact. The good news is that directory and security services are becoming very standardized.

Today, there are basically three standards driving directory services. Foremost is the X.500 standard. DNS (Domain Name Server) is the Internet's implementation of directory service. LDAP (Lightweight Directory Access Protocol) makes it easy for any product from any vendor to be able to utilize the services of a directory. Lightweight implies a very thin, simple-to-use API that requires little run-time memory and library disk space.

There are also three basic standards driving security services. *Kerberos*, part of OSF's Distributed Computing Environment (DCE), utilizes a ticket-passing security scheme based on DES (Data Encryption Standard). DES employs a symmetric, shared-key encryption algorithm. For instance, a user who wants to access a network resource begins the process by creating a *request* message. It encrypts the message using the DES algorithm along with a user-assigned shared-key. The encrypted message is then sent to Kerberos.



When Kerberos receives the message, it looks up the user's assigned shared-key in a security database it maintains that contains everyone's user-assigned shared-keys. Kerberos then uses that shared-key along with the DES algorithm to decrypt the message. Next, Kerberos checks its access control database to see if the user has permission to access the requested resource. If so, Kerberos returns to the user a ticket. Half of the ticket is encrypted using the requester's shared-key. The other half is encrypted using the resource's shared-key. Contained in

both halves of the ticket is a unique session key that can be used to encrypt the messages that need to be communicated between the client and the server. Note that the Kerberos-issued ticket is then passed back and forth with each message exchange between the client and server.

Kerberos works fine within an enterprise. But its ticket-passing security techniques break down when applied to inter-organization communication. To solve this challenge, users are encouraged to use the *Public-Key/Private-Key Encryption* standard. This encryption technique employs two keys: a public-key that can be published and made available to anyone who wants to access a resource; and a private-key that is never shared with anyone.

In this scheme, a client issues a request by encrypting a message using the server's public-key along with the public-key/private-key encryption algorithm. When the server receives the message, it uses the exact same public-key/private-key encryption algorithm but with its private-key. Think of this approach in terms of a postal metaphor. Once a sender seals a letter inside an envelope, the sender can no longer view the letter. Similarly, once a sender encrypts a message with a public-key, it can not decrypt that message. Only the receiver with its private-key can decrypt the message.

For the public-key/private-key encryption standard to work, a third-party organization must be responsible for licensing keys. The firm that provides this service is RSA, a division of Security Dynamics. RSA currently holds the patents on this technology. The main issue with regard to security today is not technical, but political. Various governments have legal regulations restricting the size of keys that are permitted for use with the public-key/private-key encryption algorithm.

The third security standard is DSS *(Digital Signature Standard)*. DSS allows a user to encrypt their own name using the public-key/private-key encryption algorithm along with their own private-key. Then, before sending the signature message, they take the encrypted text and encrypt it again, but this time using the receiver's public-key. When the message is received, the receiver decrypts the message twice — first using their own private-key, then again using the sender's private-key. If the sender's name pops up, the receiver has total assurance of the message's authenticity.

Message Routing

Middleware associated with *message routing* supports the time-delayed, store-and-forward transmission of data files, especially documents exchanged via E-mail. In many ways, message routing resembles paper-based postal services where a sender drops a letter into a mailbox, and eventually it is delivered to the recipient's address. The letter will typically experience numerous stops along the way as it gets routed from post office to post office before its ultimate delivery.

Like Distributed Services, message routing has become standardized. Again, there are three primary standards. X.400 specifies how messages must be formatted in order to be transported from senders to receivers. X.400 *message transfer agents* handle the movement of documents as they flow across the network. The second standard is SMTP (Simple Mail Transport Protocol), the Internet's implementation of Message Routing. Finally, just as Distributed Services included LDAP to enable applications to access directory services, message routing provides MAPI (Messaging API), which enables applications to interface with message routing services. For example, MAPI makes it possible for a program to output a document as E-mail just as easily as the document could be sent to a printer or fax.

Application Partitioning

The third and most comprehensive set of middleware tools deals with application partitioning — identifying what portion of a distributed application executes on the client and what portion executes on the server. There are five configurations of application partitioning models:

1. *Fat Client*, which is *data-oriented*
2. *RPC*, which is *function-oriented*
3. *MOM*, which is *event-oriented*
4. *ORB*, which is *object-oriented*
5. *Thin Client*, which is *screen-oriented*

Most currently deployed client/server applications were built using the fat client approach. With fat clients, all executable code resides on the desktop PC except for the DBMS. Fat client applications issue SQL requests over the network to back-end relational database engines such as Oracle, Informix, Sybase, DB2, or SQL Server, which then send data back and forth. Fat client communication is provided by remote data access middleware such as ODBC.

A second-generation application partitioning approach divides executable logic between clients and servers. Most implementations of second-generation application partitioning employ a 3-*tier* model where an application is divided into three components:

1. *a presentation layer*
2. *an application layer*
3. *a data access layer*

Essentially, 3-tier takes the fat client's commingled GUI and business logic, and separates them into two modules. Introducing an application layer as a bridge between the client GUI and the server database engine minimizes the cost and complexity of software maintenance. In the fat client model, every software change necessitates that new code be reinstalled to hundreds or even thousands of desktops. But the most frequent maintenance changes rarely involve modifications to the visual objects comprising the GUI, or the DBMS metadata; instead, what repeatedly change are the business rules and business processes. In the 3-tier model, volatile business logic is maintained separately on its own secure, centralized application servers. This makes it much easier to modify application software code without having to update a large number of individual desktop platforms.

There are multiple types of second-generation application partitioning middleware products that support 3-tier computing. These include:

1. remote procedure calls (RPCs)
2. message oriented middleware (MOMs)
3. object request brokers (ORBs)

RPCs redirect subroutine calls transparently across a network. MOMs handle simple inter-program messaging where one program *sends* a message to a second program that *receives* the message. ORBs automatically handle distributed object interactions. Virtually all ORB vendors support the Object Management Group's CORBA (Common ORB Architecture) specifications. The glaring exception is Microsoft, which promotes a non-CORBA-compliant approach called *Distributed OLE*, also referred to as *DCOM* (Distributed Component Object Model).

The thin client approach, where everything runs on the host except the GUI, was originally implemented using screen-scraper and X-Windows technology. Screen-scraping entails intercepting display images formatted for character-based dumb terminal screens. The recent surge of renewed interest in the thin client approach is due to the exploding popularity of the World Wide Web and Web browsers. This new *"anorexic"* thin client model implements GUI using HTML (HyperText Markup Language) embedded into Web pages that are transported across TCP/IP links using HTTP (HyperText Transport Protocol). HTML pages, which are in plain text ASCII format, contain text, graphics and links to other HTML pages.

The thin client model is rapidly maturing. Sun developed the Java language, which can be used to create specialized programs that can be embedded into HTML pages. These *applets* are manipulated using parameters embedded in the HTML. Sun, with Netscape, derived from Java a high-level scripting language called JavaScript that allows programmers to put functions like data entry validation behind the embedded Java applets.

Microsoft recently introduced similar functionality. Its equivalent of Java applets are OLE controls called ActiveXs (formerly OCXs). Visual Basic Script, a stripped-down version of VBA (Visual Basic for Applications), can be embedded into HTML pages to manipulate embedded OLE controls. With Java applets and/or ActiveXs, and client-side scripting, developers can create pages that execute code locally, respond faster and reduce network traffic. Furthermore, with middleware, applets can easily communicate across network links.

As middleware tools have matured, sophisticated communication models have emerged. There are four basic modes of client/server middleware communication:

1. *Request/Reply — Synchronous*
2. *Request/Reply — Asynchronous*
3. *Publish-and-Subscribe*
4. *Store-and-Forward*

The most common form of client/server communication is *request/reply*. Clients issue requests for services; servers reply. With synchronous request/reply, the client process is blocked after issuing a service request. It can only resume execution after the server process responds. Asynchronous request/reply, on the other hand, immediately returns control to the client process. The client subsequently retrieves data from the server either via polling or a callback signaling mechanism.

Message queuing is frequently used to support asynchronous request/reply communication. One advantage of employing message queuing resource managers is their ability to coordinate with DTP monitors. Because they support X/Open's XA-compliant two-phase commit protocol, transaction integrity is assured. Message queuing,

especially in conjunction with DTP, holds great promise for significantly increasing client/server scalability.

Traditionally, most RPC, ORB and SQL-based remote data access offerings have supported synchronous request/reply processing exclusively. Conversely, the majority of MOM products have supported event-driven asynchronous request/reply processing. Many software vendors have begun providing both approaches from within a single middleware environment.

Another hot new trend is the emergence of *publish-and-subscribe* middleware products. This paradigm can almost be thought of as *server/client* computing. Unlike request/reply, which is a *pull* model (i.e., clients pull data from servers), publish/subscribe is a *push* model (i.e., servers push data onto clients). With publish/subscribe, a server *publishes* an event by sending a message to an Event Notification Registry. The registry, in turn, sends messages to notify all *subscribers*, if any, who have previously registered an interest in monitoring this particular event.

For example, a Wall Street stock-ticker might publish a trading event such as the sale of 100 shares of IBM. Any subscribing stock trader tracking IBM would automatically be notified of this sales transaction. Publish-and-subscribe can be coordinated with a message queuing resource manager. When combined with a DTP monitor, publish-and-subscribe can ensure asynchronous notification with full transaction integrity.

The publish-and-subscribe model is frequently used by data pumps and DBMSs to handle the task of automatic data replication. These facilities are often used in the implementation of *data warehouses* and *data marts*.

The future of publish-and-subscribe technology looks promising. Combining publish-and-subscribe with Web-based publishing has the potential to produce a compelling new class of "killer" Internet applications.

The *store-and-forward* approach is another type of push model. For example, with e-mail the sender pushes a message to a receiver. Store-and-forward techniques are also being increasingly applied to address the requirements of mobile computing where nomadic client users are *occasionally connected* to network servers. Workflow is another example where store-and-forward techniques are being used to route information and responsibility, based on business rules and policies, from one user application to another.

"Ware" do you want to be today?

The Client/Server Middleware Road Map is part of a series of infographic wall posters developed by Jeff Tash of Database Decisions and published by Computerworld. This road map covers:

CLIENTWARE: client apps — e.g., word processors, spreadsheets, graphics, web browsers, etc.

SERVERWARE: server apps — e.g., RDBMSs, TP monitors, e-Mail servers, web servers, etc.

MIDDLEWARE: tools that facilitate seemless any-to-any interoperability — masking differences or incompatibilities in network transport protocols, hardware architectures, operating systems, programming languages, database management systems, remote procedure calls, object request brokers, etc.

MANAGEWARE: intelligent agents, managers, and consoles for managing enterprises, networks, systems, databases and applications

Other members of the Client/Server Road Map Series include:

ABOVEWARE: software development tools responsible for building the added-value applications that run on top of middleware

Client/Server Aboveware Road Map was published in August 1996 Computerworld Client/Server Journal.

WEBWARE: software products that enable the Internet/Intranet to be used as an organization's client/server infrastructure

Client/Server Webware Road Map to be published in an upcoming Computerworld (first half of 1997).

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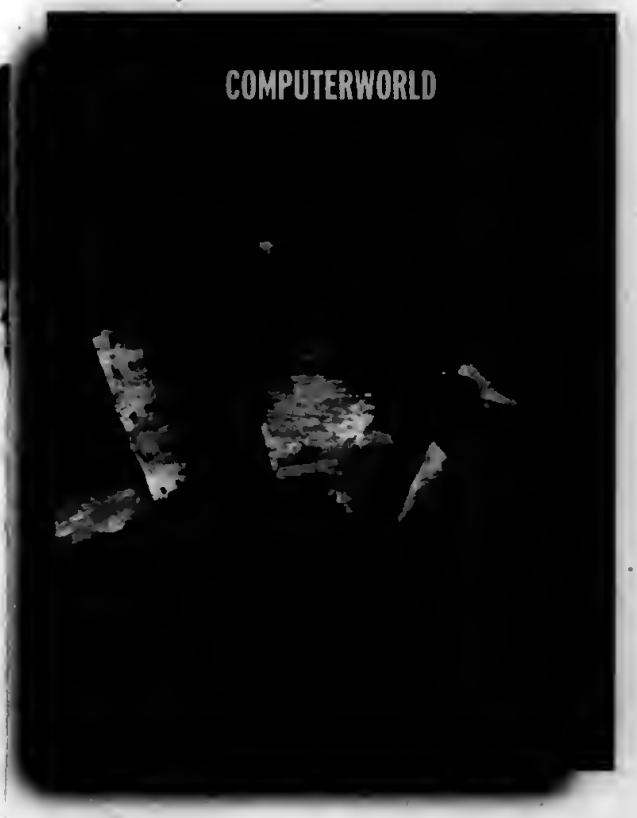

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Software

Client/Server • Development • Operating Systems

Briefs

[redacted]

HIGH HURDLES

The biggest obstacles to building a data warehouse:

- Poor data quality
- Lack of resources
- Poorly defined goals
- Technical limits
- Poor understanding of legacy data
- Lack of end-user support

Basis: 521 companies with data warehouses in place or planned

Source: [redacted]

Oracle packages planning

▶ *Pulls together tools for resource forecasting*

By Randy Weston

ORACLE CORP. and four other software vendors are putting aside their differences to develop a comprehensive software package for the consumer packaged-goods industry.

But the effort may mean more to users than a vendor entering a new vertical market.

It may be the first step to solving the enterprise resource planning (ERP) vs. best-of-breed debate many users face when deciding what kind of software to buy.

"ERP won [the debate]. SAP showed that," said Adam Thier, an analyst at Meta Group, Inc. in Stamford, Conn. "People wanted to buy in to a consistent set of tools for their organization. Now ERP vendors want to supplement their product with best-of-breed software where needed, in specific cases for specific industries." The consumer packaged-goods business is one such industry.

[redacted]

Company	Component	Purpose
Oracle	Financials	[redacted]
Oracle*	Process manufacturing	[redacted]
[redacted]	Logistics/ planning	[redacted]
IMI	Order management	[redacted]
IMI	Sales and marketing	[redacted]
TSW	Plant maintenance	[redacted]

* For manufacturers; Oracle had acquired Distinction, which Oracle bought last year.

For the hybrid enterprise and best-of-breed software package, Oracle took its own financial and manufacturing modules and added applications from Manugistics, Inc. in Rockville, Md., Industri-Matematik International (IMI) in Tarrytown, N.Y., TSW International in

Oracle, page 44

Gotcha! Con games on the Internet

By Sharon Gaudin

COMPANIES ARE putting their identities up on the Web. And although they are trying to use the World Wide Web to bolster their business, they also are taking the chance that someone will use the Web against them.

Con games can be played on the Internet as easily as on a side street. Hackers can spoof a corporate Web site, intercept financial or corporate information or enter a protected site under the guise of someone else. One way to foil such games is to build authentication capabilities in to an application.

"I'm building a site for the whole university, and a major concern is knowing that your transactions on the Internet are secure," said Joseph Kerr, director of information management and technology at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Spoof-proofing, page 44

FRANKLY SPEAKING

The Great Brain Heist

FRANK HAYES

EVERY NOW and then, vendors get a taste of what life is really like for corporate IS shops.

Case in point: A few weeks back, Informix Software discovered that nearly a dozen of its top developers had quit to take jobs at Oracle.

Informix cried foul — and filed suit — over this Great Brain Robbery by its big rival. The lawyers will be sorting it out for months or even years. But based on the early line, it looks like Informix is out of luck — just like any IS department that hires top talent in a hot new technology and then discovers how hard it is to hold on to those people.

Whether you're building intranets, electronic commerce or data warehousing, it's the same problem. Technology changes so fast that the demand for technical experts in new areas far outstrips supply. That means good people are hard to find, expensive to hire and almost impossible to keep.

It's a problem that will just get worse. And there isn't much you can do about it.

When an expensive hired gun walks out the door one night and doesn't return, you don't just lose that techie's talents. You've probably also lost a lot of information about how your systems work and what your organization needs.

That information isn't of much use to the former employee. But it *is* valuable to you, whether it's business rules, user preferences, promises made, project ideas, odd little bug fixes or irritating problems yet to be fixed.

Hayes, page 44

Java apps serve up flexibility

By Lisa Picarille

BY MOUNTING one of the largest Java efforts in the software industry, Lotus Development Corp. hopes to deliver a set of Java-based productivity applets by the summer.

Lotus has been talking about the concept of delivering a set of business applications written entirely in Sun Microsystems, Inc.'s Java language since Comdex/Fall '96 in November. At last month's Lotusphere — the company's annual user conference — Lotus for the first time demonstrated its Java-based suite.

Lotus has [redacted] decide [redacted] for Kona applets

Code-named Kona, the set of Java-based productivity applets includes a spreadsheet, text editor, chart builder, calendar,

Java, page 44

Oracle offers tools for consumer goods

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 43

Atlanta and Chicago-based Information Resources, Inc.

Each of those other vendors produces what many analysts said is the best software in their respective fields (see chart, page 43).

George Van Ness, Oracle's vice president of industry applications, said the company sought to break down barriers among competitive vendors to integrate the best software components.

> Oracle sought to break down barriers among competitive vendors

"You achieve that by each vendor using the other as experts instead of competition," Van Ness said. "It meant IMI stopping short of using its scheduler and instead installing Manugistics' product because it is a better scheduler."

First Brands Corp., a $1 billion consumer-goods maker based in Danbury, Conn., is an early user of Oracle's package. First Brands makes products such as Glad trash bags.

A. R. "Bud" McClellan, assistant controller at First Brands, said the company was using Manugistics' mainframe application for supply chain management and wanted to keep the functionality of this application. But First Brands also was reengineering its Glad division and wanted an enterprisewide client/server package.

After evaluating about 27 vendors, including SAP AG, PeopleSoft, Inc. in Pleasanton, Calif., and The Baan Co. in Menlo Park, Calif., McClellan said Oracle seemed the obvious choice, even if the Oracle piece wasn't the deciding factor.

"We looked at Oracle because of the best-of-breed approach," McClellan said.

"IMI was something we heard about and were interested in, and we wanted Manugistics client/server software. We didn't know much about [Oracle Manufacturing], and [software for] financials are not going to drive anyone's [buying decision]," he said.

Hayes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 43

The trouble is, after that techie is gone, the information is out of reach.

What can you do? Something you should have started to do a long time ago: Get that information out of your techies' heads and on to paper. Or even better, into electronic form.

A system of tools, rules and jewels can make your developers and operations people more effective individually as it reduces your dependence on each individual.

Invest in tools that make them more efficient and effective, tools for systems management, development and documentation. Then set up rules specifying that as much information as possible about your systems, processes and user needs — the jewels — must be documented.

Once you've got that information in a single place, you can and should use it for almost everything. Train new people with it. Track your performance. Get answers without having to wake up overworked techies on the weekend.

Make sure your people keep it updated so it stays useful. If it doesn't get used every day, it will quickly fall out of sync with what's actually going on in your organization.

You'll probably have to piece together a system to store this information yourself. Most commercially available repositories right now were designed just to store information about software development — and that's nowhere near enough.

You want it to hold everything from operational logs to meeting notes and blue-sky ideas. And you want it to be available to everyone in your shop.

If you're worried that such valuable information should be locked away, just remember — right now, it is. It's locked away in the heads of employees who could walk out the door tonight and not come back.

Hayes is Computerworld's staff columnist. His Internet address is frank_hayes@cw.com.

The following productivity suite providers are jumping on the Java bandwagon:

	Lotus	Corel
Product	Code-named Kona	Corel Office for Java
Description	A set of individual applets written in Java	Some of Corel's current suite offerings rewritten in Java
Includes	Spreadsheet, text editor, chart builder, calendar, personal information manager	Spreadsheet, word processor, presentation package, charting, business graphics, calendaring/scheduling, address book, E-mail
Availability	This summer	This spring
Pricing	To be determined	To be determined

Java productivity apps

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 43

personal information manager, electronic mail, presentatioo graphics application and project scheduler.

Because the applets are written in Java, they can run on any platform that has a Java Virtual Machine, including World Wide Web browsers that support Java, network computers and Lotus Notes clients.

Lotus hasn't decided on pricing, but company officials said Kona applets will be available to developers as building blocks for creating applications. A version of Kona also is expected to be sold to end users, according to Brian Anderson, product manager of Lotus Components.

The Java-based Kona applets could give Lotus' software efforts a needed shot in the arm. Despite of a year of aggressive bundling deals, Lotus' SmartSuite has gained only a few percentage points on Microsoft Corp.'s best-selling Office suite.

Office's market share of suites fluctuates between 80% and 90%, depending on which competitor announces an upgrade or releases a new version. Lotus ranks second, and Corel Corp.'s Corel WordPerfect Office is usually in third place, according to Dataquest, a market research firm in San Jose, Calif.

Jeff Lewczyk, a systems developer at the Division of Laboratories of the Connecticut Department of Public Health in Hartford, said he is interested in the Kona technology. He said his agency, which has 4,000 Office users and only pockets of SmartSuite users, is unlikely to embrace Java applets right now.

"As a government agency, things move slowly," Lewczyk said. "But the time is coming when we will not only be creating data but delivering data online. And I could see where having this type of technology would make it much easier for our users to interface with an intranet or the Internet without having features in their suites that they don't need."

Industry watchers said Java's cross-platform capabilities provide an opportunity for Lotus and Corel to make some inroads with users who don't need the full power or memory of traditional desktop suites.

Corel was the first to bet big on Java, with plans announced as early as last summer. Corel Office for Java, now in beta release, is due in the spring. Microsoft officials have said the company doesn't plan to rewrite Office in Java, although the program will support Java. Microsoft continues to push its ActiveX component plan.

"Microsoft has a stronghold on the desktop, and chances of [Java-based applets] impinging on that is low," said Chris Le Tocq, a Dataquest analyst. "But Lotus and Corel could do well on the Java platform depending on how well Java itself is accepted. Right now, they are rolling the dice."

Spoof-proofing Web sites

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 43

"A piece of that is protecting against spoofing. We need to know who we're talking to at all times," Kerr said.

The university uses Gradient Technologies, Inc.'s new WebCrusader 2.0 to foil Internet intrusions at his site, which is slated to go up this spring. The site is expected 50,000 users. WebCrusader is used during the application development process to build authentication capabilities in to each program.

The definition of spoofing varies, but the threat it poses doesn't. Some analysts and users say spoofing occurs when a hacker accesses a site through someone else's server, using the other identity to gain access. And others say spoofing is putting up a server that will intercept transactions at an official site. Both definitions point to an unauthorized person gaining access to take or change information on a corporate Web site.

PROFESSIONAL ESPIONAGE

"As more and more corporations get on the 'net, there are professional spoofers out there who are getting paid to get corporate information," said Joel Maloff, president of The Maloff Co. in Dexter, Mich. "Industrial espionage is not new. This is just a new tool."

Maloff said there aren't any specific numbers on how frequently companies are spoofed, mainly because many companies aren't aware of it or are too embarrassed to report it. "It is on a growth curve because the industry is on a growth curve," he said. "Most companies don't have a written security plan, so most aren't protecting themselves very well."

Ezra Gottheil, an analyst at Hurwitz Group, Inc. in Newton, Mass., said a lack of numbers doesn't detract from the seriousness of the potential problem.

"Security only becomes an issue once you've been hit, and some people regard it as high comedy to disrupt your life," Gottheil said. "Gradient is getting at the problem. It's a security layer right in the application. It also addresses the issues of convenience and simplicity."

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Briefs

[illegible] for NT, AIX

[illegible] International LLC in New Canaan, Conn., is shipping versions of its Golden MailBridge electronic-mail connector for Windows NT and IBM's AIX. The software, which links legacy, LAN and Internet mail systems, was previously available only on OS/2. Pricing starts at $5,990.

[illegible] Maker on NT

[illegible] Corp. in Cambridge, Mass., is shipping Meeting Maker 4.0, a version of its client/server scheduling software that runs on Windows NT servers. It has a Master [illegible] feature that provides [illegible] view into multiple [illegible]. Pricing for Meeting Maker 4.0 starts at $9,995 for a [illegible] that includes client and server software.

Pac Bell tests ADSL

Pacific Bell plans a limited roll-out of two Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) services in the fall: one for customers and small businesses and the other for telecommuters who connect to corporate LANs. Pac Bell will charge a flat rate of about $100 for telecommuters who access the 'net through an employer's LAN.

A PLACE FOR NT

Windows NT won't threaten Unix, but it will dominate in these areas:

- Client/server E-mail upgrades
- Migration from NetWare and OS/2
- Building intranets

Windows NT shipments are projected to increase because of those dominant areas:

[illegible]

HP changes OpenMail mission

▸ *It's now a backbone, with support services*

By Barb Cole

HEWLETT-PACKARD CO. hopes to breathe new life into its messaging business by pushing its software and services as a way to shore up weaknesses in its competitors' mail systems, *Computerworld* has learned.

HP is betting that companies eyeing the new crop of client/server messaging systems will look at HP OpenMail as a mail backbone able to handle large volumes of users and messages by linking different electronic-mail packages and synchronizing directories.

The repositioning will put OpenMail in a supplemental role and take it out of direct competition with Microsoft Corp.'s Exchange and Lotus Development Corp.'s Notes. But HP could face an uphill battle because many companies are looking to standardize on one messaging platform.

"We've used [additional] backbone technology with Exchange and are really trying to get away from that," said Brian Leonard, a senior business analyst in the emerging technologies group at Carolina Power & Light Co. in Raleigh, N.C. The utility is rolling out Exchange to 6,000 users. Leonard said the biggest obstacle to scaling Exchange is

HP changes, page 48

HP's OpenMail

- Can support thousands of users per server
- Consistent uptime
- Integrated with HP OpenView management platform

Users indifferent to Unicenter 3-D

Unicenter TNG's Real World includes a Unispace view that breaks networks down by business processes and functions

By Craig Stedman

THE MOST noticeable feature in Computer Associates International, Inc.'s Unicenter TNG management software is its 3-D user interface. But whether the interface actually is useful is in the eye of the beholder.

Beta testers and prospective users had mixed reactions to the optional interface, which lets systems managers zoom through three-dimensional renderings of their data centers and networks — even to the point of going inside individual machines to check on different components.

Unicenter TNG, page 48

IRS goes wireless to fight diesel fuel tax fraud

By Mindy Blodgett

IN THE BATTLE against tax fraud, one Internal Revenue Service division has decided to use wireless mobile communications as a weapon in the arsenal of field agents.

The IRS' diesel fuel program has implemented a wireless mobile computing system nationwide for agents who track diesel fuel tax fraud.

The IRS implementation is part of general trend in which mainstream corporate functions

IRS, page 48

Network connects agents to tax records during inspections

NT SERVER 5.0

NT users eye enhanced directory

By Laura DiDio

IF MICROSOFT sticks to its published schedule — and some cynics are betting it won't — Windows NT Server 5.0, code-named Cairo, and its advanced Active Directory will ship by year's end.

The Active Directory is Microsoft Corp.'s full-blown enterprise services mechanism. It was designed to remove the limitations of the current domain name services (DNS) in Windows NT 3.51 and 4.0 and ease NT Server administration on an enterprise level. It is slated to support several standards that allow electronic-mail and other directories to share user information, including X.500 and the Internet Engineering Task Force's Lightweight Directory Access Protocol.

"DNS is not a true wide-area X.500 standards-based directory, and it's been the one big, ongoing weakness that hampers Windows NT Server's scalability and deployment as an enterprise server in Fortune 500 accounts," said Jon Oltsik, an analyst at Forrester Research, Inc., a consulting firm in Cambridge,

NT users, page 48

NT users eye directory revamp

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 47

Mass. "Ideally, that will all change when the Active Directory ships with Windows NT 5.0 at year's end."

Users said they hoped so.

Ted Kull, manager of LAN systems operations at the Educational Testing Service in Princeton, N.J., said Microsoft would do "everyone a big favor if they deployed a real directory."

He said Microsoft's Active Directory White Paper discusses the software in the present tense. "In reality, it's a pre-alpha product. And I have no intention of abandoning good sense and doing a wide-area Windows NT Server rollout until I'm certain Microsoft has nailed it down," he said.

Microsoft officials said the proof is in a raft of advanced features, but as yet only a handful of developers has seen or tested the upcoming Active Directory.

The latest version of an oft-changed feature list is the ability to create extensible schemas — the format and types of information stored in the directory. It was designed to let users link various corporate directories without scrapping the products that produced the directories.

Another facility much hyped by the Redmond, Wash., company is the Microsoft Management Console, a Windows-based management administration tool that can be used to monitor all the directories across an enterprise.

A feature called Dynamic DNS is supposed to let businesses use the Internet's DNS to find the numerical IP address by looking up its common name.

By contrast, current implementations of Windows NT DNS servers require administrators to manually update host names and IP addresses.

Finally, Microsoft officials said the Active Directory will support up to 10 million objects per directory database, far more than the 40,000-object limit they claim for the current DNS.

But an information systems manager at a large New York-based brokerage firm who requested anonymity said seeing is believing. "We're just not switching to Windows NT Server until I see the Active Directory, test it and be sure that it works. I've grown tired of listening to Microsoft talk about Cairo for the last three years; let's see the proof," he said.

Features of Windows NT 5.0's next-generation Active Directory include:

- The Microsoft Management Console
- A Web-based interface for querying and managing directories
- Active Directory Services Interfaces APIs
- Dynamic DNS
- Kerberos-based security model
- LDAP support
- Multimaster replication support

Unicenter TNG goes 3-D

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 47

Some users said the gamelike Real World interface should make it easier to track their networks by visualizing problems and other events. But others said they expect the 3-D capabilities to be useful more for catching the eye of senior executives than for doing down-and-dirty administrative work.

Doug Walker, assistant director of financial computer support at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, said he hopes to get better central control over his network by upgrading to Unicenter TNG (The Next Generation).

The original Unicenter was primarily a systems management tool. Unicenter TNG, which CA shipped late last month, was designed to provide end-to-end management of systems, networks and applications. It includes built-in automation agents and lets users see how problems affect business processes [CW, Feb. 3].

CA's promises that Unicenter TNG will manage Brigham Young's databases and "tell us where the problems are" across the school's network sound great, Walker said. "But I couldn't care less about flying around in my network," he added.

The 3-D support "is a glitzy thing, but I'm not sure it's going to help me get my job done," Walker said. "That sells [upper] management, not the hard-core guys who do the work." Sending 3-D graphics to remote administrators also might clog communications lines, he said.

Don Resh, a senior vice president and the chief information officer at Retired Persons Services, Inc. in Alexandria, Va., also said the 3-D interface's value mostly lies in helping to sell the benefits of Unicenter TNG to executives.

"If I show them a graphical view of our financial systems and where the bottleneck is, they walk out of the room wanting to know how quickly they can cut a check to fix things," Resh said. Retired Persons Services, which runs a mail-in pharmacy for members of the American Association of Retired Persons, is beta-testing Unicenter TNG.

CA officials said they expect most Unicenter TNG customers to implement the Real World interface to some degree, but users can also opt to stay with two-dimensional or command-line interfaces.

Michael Jaslowski, a senior project manager at Allstate Insurance Co. in Northbrook, Ill., said he was skeptical about the 3-D. "But just like with a new car, it turns out that a Porsche is nicer than a Chevette," he said.

IRS moves to wireless system

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 47

such as sales are increasingly using wireless communications.

Until recently, most wireless mobile programs were relegated to specific functions such as field service, warehouse inventory tracking and transportation.

"Wireless is still targeted at the vertical applications, but we are definitely seeing more uses such as general field sales, consulting and real estate," said Dan Merriman, an analyst at Giga Information Group, Inc. in Norwell, Mass. "We are still not talking about general-purpose mobile professionals here. But mobile professionals who place a high value on speed of communications are using wireless."

CONNECTED

Using Oracle Mobile Agents software from Oracle Corp. in Redwood Shores, Calif., and a wireless mobile system designed by Aris Corp. in Seattle, about 150 IRS agents use laptops from Compaq Corp. in Houston and handhelds from Hewlett-Packard Co. in Palo Alto, Calif., to log discrepancies and complaints, settle fines and access the IRS' main database.

All diesel vehicles and diesel fuel stations are subject to inspection by IRS compliance officers. The inspectors check vehicles for untaxed gas at weigh stations or at truck stops — and they check the pumps, too.

The new IRS mobile wireless setup has 150 mobile users and 40 managers on the networked system.

Prior to the implementation of the program, field agents lugged extensive files and data on the road, according to Roy Lively, an excise program analyst at the IRS. The agents — who inspect stations that sell diesel fuel and the vehicles that use it to ensure that the proper taxes are being paid — had to sort through paperwork while making inspections and then mail in information.

Lively couldn't give a total cost of the project, which was rolled out in July. But he said, "We definitely think it was worth it, and in the end we will save money." The users also have cellular hookups to the laptops for wireless access to file reports and to access the Oracle Mobile Agent on the data server. The palmtop computers are used to record site locations, license plate numbers and other information.

Iain Gillott, an analyst at IDC/Link in Austin, Texas, said implementations such as the IRS program that use middleware such as Oracle Mobile Agents are likely to be replaced in the future by personal communications services systems.

But in the meantime, Lively said, the wireless system saves agents valuable time, although the IRS is still collecting data to demonstrate productivity gains.

HP changes OpenView mission

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 47

the 16G-byte limit on the server's message store, something that he will "wait for Microsoft to fix later this year."

The HP plan, to be detailed this quarter, is expected to include an OpenMail upgrade that boasts new application messaging technology similar to IBM's MQSeries message-oriented middleware.

Sources close to HP said the company is working on plans to offer consulting and support services to organizations looking to deploy Exchange across an enterprise. That could be fertile ground for HP to sell its mail backbone because Exchange early adopters have faced hurdles in getting the client/server messaging system to scale.

Officials at HP in Palo Alto, Calif., declined to comment.

OpenMail is the dominant vendor in the Unix E-mail space. It can support up to several thousand users on one server. In comparison, Notes and Exchange support about 1,000 and 500 users per server, respectively.

OpenMail's scalability appeals to organizations that are looking to move off LAN-based mail systems but aren't confident that Notes and Exchange can handle their messaging load. One such organization, NationsBank Corp., recently migrated several thousand users to OpenMail from Lotus' CC:Mail and will run HP's messaging servers in concert with a growing Notes network.

"[HP] is sticking with what it does best: providing a high-performance messaging server that can be run stand-alone or as a supplemental backbone to other mail systems," said Mark Levitt, an analyst at International Data Corp. in Framingham, Mass.

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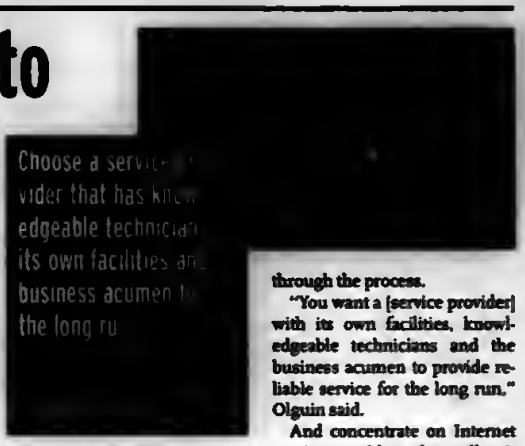
Briefs

"Your videotape rental history has much better privacy protection than your Social Security number."

– Lauren Weinstein, moderator of the electronic mailing list "The Privacy Forum"

No federal law forbids disclosure of Social Security numbers. But a video-rental privacy law was enacted after Supreme Court nominee Robert Bork was embarrassed by the publication of a video list that included adult titles, Weinstein said.

Buyer beware: How to pick a 'net provider



By Bob Wallace

SVER HAD PROBLEMS with your Internet service provider?

"We opened a trouble ticket with them that stayed open for weeks. They sold more service than their network could handle," said Steven Thompson, a member of the network engineering group at Harris Corp. in Melbourne, Fla. "Their service people and management acknowledged that and said they'd upgrade their backbone network, but it never happened. You call them, and they don't call back. It's a comedy of errors."

That's what can happen to users who don't ask the right questions and end up choosing their business Internet service provider unwisely.

The service provider market has been typified by sweeping service problems, weak-kneed networks and rapid market consolidation, according to Sheryl Olguin, a project leader at Harris.

Choosing the right service provider is far from easy. The first step is to find the serious players among the start-ups and garage operations, according to users who have been through the process.

"You want a [service provider] with its own facilities, knowledgeable technicians and the business acumen to provide reliable service for the long run," Olguin said.

And concentrate on Internet service providers that sell primarily to businesses; stay away from those that offer unlimited access, advised Tom Nolle, president of CIMI Corp., a consul-

Picking a 'net provider, page 52

FIREWALL SECURITY

Screening for applets

▸ *Technology scans for rogue Java programs*

By Sharon Machlis

WHAT GOOD IS a firewall if users who are surfing the Web download potentially damaging executable code that runs on their systems without being screened — and sometimes without their knowledge?

That's the dilemma network administrators face as mini-applications — or applets — written in Java or ActiveX become more common on World Wide Web sites.

In an attempt to combat potential security problems from such unrestrained code, several major firewall vendors are using Java-screening technology from Israeli start-up Finjan, Inc. The company's U.S. office is in Santa Clara, Calif.

Finjan's SurfinGate doesn't screen for ActiveX applets but will include that ability in future versions, according to Lior Arussy, the company's vice president of marketing and sales.

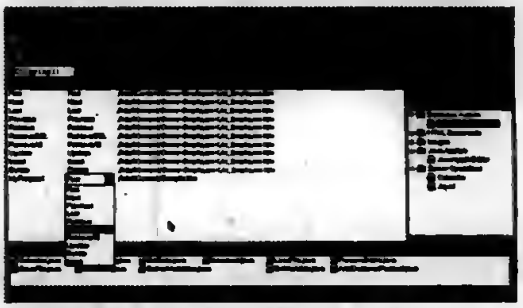
"It's difficult for us to assess the exact threat [from applets]," said Richard Perlotto, a corporate network security manager at VLSI Technology, Inc. in San Jose, Calif. "It's a large unknown quantity."

Perlotto said he would like to have Java-screening capability built in to CheckPoint Software Technologies Ltd.'s FireWall-1 software, which VLSI Technology uses.

Several major firewalls, such as FireWall-1 from Check Point Software Technologies, may incorporate Java applet screening

Bob Beecher, manager of development operations at Bell & Howell PSC Co. in Cleveland, said the product — since its early beta — has come a long way. "At this point, it works as adver-

Applets, page 52



SourceCraft's IntelliCraft makes it easier to build Java-enabled Web applications

SourceCraft Web tool combines Java, HTML

By Mitch Wagner

SOURCECRAFT, INC. today plans to ship IntelliCraft, a tool designed to make it easier to build Java-enabled World Wide Web applications.

"It's an extremely easy-to-use, industrial-strength product [with which] to develop Web sites," said Marcus Liuzzi, creative director at Crossroads Communications, an advertising agency in Nashua, N.H.

Liuzzi said he is impressed that the software lets a user build an online form using a drag-and-drop interface and then generate Java code automatically to control the form.

According to SourceCraft in Burlington, Mass., the software was designed to provide a unified tool set for building applications that combine Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) and standard Java. It was designed to build client/server applications that use the Internet as a communications mechanism — applications for customer service applications or catalog sales, for example.

Applications written in IntelliCraft can run on the Web or they can be distributed on CD-ROM. The software includes its own server, written in Java, on which the applications run. Because Java runs on many platforms, users can simply in-

SourceCraft, page 53

Picking a 'net provider

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 51

tancy in Voorhees, N.J.

Because profit margins for consumer access are thin at best, consumer-oriented service providers can't afford to invest in network expansions or upgrades to keep bandwidth high, and they can't afford to offer new services, Nolle said.

Users should consider the number of dial-in ports available and whether those ports are concentrated in places to which their employees travel, said Daniel Gasparro, a chief technologist at Booz Allen & Hamilton, Inc. in McLean, Va.

Analysts suggested that companies that would like to support mobile users look for service providers that offer toll-free telephone numbers.

The 800 numbers would give roaming users easier access to the Internet.

STRONG BACKBONE NEEDED

Failing that, some Internet service providers are installing huge banks of modems in heavily traveled cities to accommodate mobile workers who need dial-up Internet access, said Daniel Briere, president of TeleChoice, Inc., a consultancy in Verona, N.J.

Analysts said users with direct connections to their service providers also risk serious problems.

They suggested customers press prospective service providers about their network architecture; many providers sell users bigger pipes than the providers' backbones can handle.

Service providers "will tell you they're adding modems like crazy, but what isn't apparent is whether or not they're adding WAN capacity," said Jim Fey, director of strategic projects at Private Mortgage Insurance Co. in San Francisco. "One without the other isn't super useful."

Olguin said she prefers carrier/service providers such as AT&T Corp., MCI Communications Corp. and Sprint Corp. because they already have large global data networks and the deep pockets needed to continually expand the networks.

Olguin said she initially gave regular Internet service providers the advantage in the area of technology over carrier/service providers, but she said that's changing.

"AT&T and MCI had trouble understanding IP networking, but they've gotten much more knowledgeable, mainly by staffing up with people who understand Internet technologies," she said.

Applets may vex some firewalls

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 51

tised," he said. SurfinGate examines the content of Java applets in real time and creates a security profile that describes potential risks of the incoming program.

If the applet appears to violate policies the company has defined for using the security software, it will be filtered out. If it is allowed through, those same policies define which files, memory and network resources the applet may use.

This may delay the applet's execution, although company officials said performance degradation would be minimal.

Finjan announced it is working with CheckPoint Software in Redwood City, Calif.; Raptor Systems, Inc. in Waltham, Mass.; Milkyway Networks Corp. in Ottawa; Network-1 Software & Technology, Inc. in New York; and Trusted Information Systems, Inc. in Rockville, Md.

HACK ATTACKS

In demonstrations on various Web sites, rogue applets have crashed systems and searched users' machines for data to be sent to an outside server.

In Germany, hackers from the Chaos Computer Club demonstrated an ActiveX applet that instructed bill-paying software to send money to the hacker's account, said Gene Spafford, a computer science professor at Purdue University and co-author of *Practical Unix and Internet Security*.

The issue of executable code on the Web that can be downloaded is greater than simply screening Java code, he said.

"Someone who's a determined hacker with a lot of resources who wants to be malicious probably will be able to get around anything [screening programs] can do," said Avi Rubin, a senior technical staff member at AT&T Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill, N.J. "There's no way the firewall can keep up with all the different encoding schemes."

Built by engineers.

HEWLETT PACKARD

'Most trusted man' has little faith in Web

And that's the way it isn't.

Walter Cronkite, once deemed the most trusted man in America, doesn't seem to be amused by the "anything goes" nature of publishing on the World Wide Web.

The former *CBS News* anchor conducted a Web search for his name and turned up a farce home page titled "Walter Cronkite Spit in My Food," which featured a fabricated story about an incident in a Disney World restaurant, complete with doctored photos.

The Dayton, Ohio, Internet applications developer who wrote the story said he intentionally made it ludicrous, disclaimed its truth and even described himself as a "crack-smoking devil worshiper who lives with his wife and 47 children in a cardboard box."

Even so, Cronkite considered suing the developer, according to an Associated Press report.

In place of the page now is the message, "Walter didn't get the joke, so the page is gone."

— Patrick Dryden

SourceCraft combines Java, HTML in one tool

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 51

clude the server in a CD-ROM distribution. This will allow users to access the application on the CD-ROM from any Java-enabled platform.

Most other tools for building Web-enabled applications cost more than the $995 IntelliCraft and often require runtime licenses for every copy deployed on the server, analysts said.

Ezra Gottheil, an analyst at Hurwitz Group, Inc., said the product is pioneering in its ability to combine a tool kit for building HTML and Java in a single box.

Competitors such as Microsoft Corp.'s Internet Studio and FrontPage and Haht Software, Inc.'s Hahtsite, don't do that, he said. "It looks pretty accessible and pretty powerful," Gottheil said.

The software can access data stored in a database by using Microsoft's standard Open Database Connectivity interface. The high-end version also supports the Java Database Connectivity interface from JavaSoft, Inc.

Users can build Web pages that have new information by using a notebook-like interface in IntelliCraft, or they can import material from existing Web sites.

The software can be set to check specific Web locations and download updates at designated intervals.

The low-end version of IntelliCraft ships today. It costs $995 per developer license; introductory pricing is $795. A 30-day trial version can be downloaded for free from www.sourcecraft.com.

The high-end version will ship March 17. It will cost $1,295 per developer license; introductory pricing will be $995. The high-end version will support proprietary Web interfaces for linking to Microsoft and Netscape Communications Corp servers. It also will support proprietary interfaces to databases from Oracle Corp., Sybase Inc. and Informix Corp.

NEW PRODUCTS

XENSE TECHNOLOGY, INC. has announced DB Publisher, which allows data query and information reporting from any relational database through an intranet or the World Wide Web.

According to the San Francisco firm, the product can be administered centrally. It includes a drag-and-drop interface.

DB Publisher costs $4,195 for each Windows NT server.

Xense Technology
(415) 495-6191
www.xense.com

TOLLFREE SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS has announced Truemail, electronic data transfer software for sending large files as electronic-mail attachments.

According to the Meadville, Pa., company, the product bypasses the Internet and uses a closed system. A user's 486- or Pentium-based PC serves as the host for the system, and only users designated as clients with software automatically generated by the host can get in. The host creates as many clients as needed.

The software also compresses and encrypts messages in the background.

Truemail costs $149.95.

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In addition to the enhanced productivity benefits of MMX technology, NEC PowerMate™ desktop systems come standard with Intel's LANDesk® Client Manager and NEC MagicEye™ Technology. Which, by simplifying remote management and increasing fault prevention, lower the total cost of ownership in other ways. Namely, by reducing overall system downtime.

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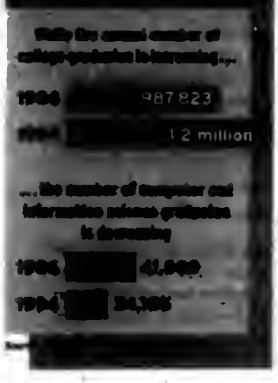
Briefs

LOSING TECHNOLOGY GRADUATES



Finder and keeper

▶ *Merrill Lynch's Sorgen uses training, growth potential to retain staff*

By Thomas Hoffman

AS A 21-YEAR-OLD punch-card tabulator at Manufacturers Hanover Trust in 1959, Howard Sorgen was invited to take a programming aptitude test. Call it the first in a series of opportunities Sorgen seized and a lesson in the importance of giving information systems professionals room to grow.

Sorgen aced the test. And since his early programmer days, Sorgen has moved on to become senior vice president and chief technology officer at Merrill Lynch & Co., the world's largest brokerage.

CORPORATE STRATEGIST

In this role, Sorgen, 59, sees one of his main missions as making sure the company's 4,000 technologists get the kind of opportunities for advancement that will keep them from jumping to the competition.

Among Wall Street brokerages, Merrill Lynch has long held a reputation for recruiting the best and the brightest minds to the caverns of Lower Manhattan. Each year, the New York-based company interviews 700 candidates from the nation's elite IS schools — including MIT and the University of Michigan — to fill just 80 openings in its corporate technology internship program.

The first lesson for IS professionals: Learn your business. To infuse the 16-week training program with more of a business orientation, the interns began-

Merrill Lynch, page 58

Newark city surveyor helped implement GIS network

Newark GIS joins in battle against Old Man Winter

By Laura DiDio
NEWARK, N.J.

THE JANUARY '96 blizzard that dumped record snowfall on the Northeast was the inspiration for this city to install a state-of-the-art, graphics-based network to provide efficient snow removal.

Newark officials decided to implement the Geographic Information System (GIS) network when two-way radio transmissions and outdated maps proved no match for the avalanche of snow from last year's blizzard, said Marshall Cooper,

Newark, page 60

RISK-MANAGEMENT TOOLS

Systems deliver functionality but falter on integration

By Thomas Hoffman

BANKERS AND BROKERS use enterprise risk-management systems to calculate thousands of variables that can affect the price of a financial investment, such as a fixed-income investment or a security that pays a fixed rate of return until the underlying bond or stock matures.

But for all the bells and whistles these systems have, users will probably never find an all-inclusive system that integrates an organization's entire collection of data sets.

CLOSER LOOK

"There is no complete risk-management system that is turnkey, nor is there ever likely to be one," said Paul Mahady, president of Market Advisory Services, Inc., a Spring Lake, N.J., market advisory firm to banks and brokerages.

Most banks store customer information on mortgage loans, fixed-income assets and typically more than a dozen other financial instruments in stovepipe systems that cut across different geographic boundaries and are poorly integrated. As a result, banks and brokerages often have to do a lot of customization and systems integration work themselves to gather data into a central repository.

Analysts say these shortcomings aren't the fault of system vendors, but rather the result of how banks have modeled their data over the past 30 years.

"Disparate systems in banks were never designed to operate together as a homogeneous whole," said David Gilbert, president and chief operating officer at CATS Software, Inc., a Palo Alto, Calif., risk-management systems vendor.

An institutional investor, such as a soap manufacturer, might invest its money in fixed-income funds, equities and six other areas within the same bank. But because the bank uses separate systems to process all of those investments "it's a tremendous operational problem" for banks to map the customer's data sets together, said Larry Tabb, a technology analyst at The Tower Group, a financial services and technology consultancy in Newton, Mass.

Nevertheless, some tools ven-

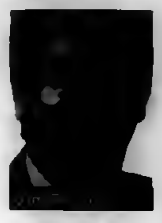
Risk management, page 58

More than just the features

▶ *Business factors key to choosing tools*

By Patrick Dryden

FACTORS BEYOND technology come into play when large organizations are choosing whether to standardize on one product or platform.



A full suite can be "overkill," providing functions that won't be used.

For example, Xerox Corp. and Marriott International, Inc. were faced with similar business needs but went in opposite directions when each sought to consolidate a range of management tools to save time and money. Xerox and its outsourcer followed Computer Associates International, Inc. in Islandia, N.Y., while Marriott went with rival Tivoli Systems, Inc., a division of IBM in Austin, Texas.

"Eventually, we'll replace a whole potpourri of 10 or more nonintegrated, unipurpose tools," said Joe Grant, vice president of global technology, strategy and infrastructure at Xerox in Stamford, Conn. "We prefer effective management to expensive redundancy."

The same effort is under way at Marriott. Operators wound up with "at least 20 different ways to manage" after writing homegrown scripts and introducing new tools with individual projects, said Jim Rinaldi, vice president of information systems and technology at Marriott in Washington.

The CA and Tivoli products have the same technological goal, so companies deciding between them are weighing factors other than product features, according to users, consultants

Factors, page 58

Corporate Strategies

Case Studies • Trends • Outsourcing

Briefs

Unisys gets contract

Unisys Corp. in Blue Bell, Pa., has won a $14.9 million contract from the U.S. Social Security Administration. The five-year contract covers support and maintenance services for 452 Token Ring LANs, an Ethernet LAN, midrange servers and workstations. The deal follows the $280 million contract Unisys signed with the agency last year for installing LANs and workstations at 1,500 of the agency's offices.

EDS to watch crops

Electronic Data Systems Corp. in Plano, Texas, has been awarded a five-year, $69 million contract by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to modernize the agency's computer systems and improve its monitoring of crop output and soil erosion from U.S. farmlands. EDS' tasks will include software engineering, imaging support, network operations support and application development.

Delta sells skills

Transquest, Inc., an Atlanta-based information technology subsidiary of Delta Air Lines, has created a research group to work on software for large-scale optimization of crew and schedule planning for other airlines. Transquest uses advanced scientific algorithms and linear programming techniques to optimize the use of crews and aircraft and to determine the most efficient routes.

LOSING TECHNOLOGY GRADUATES

While the annual number of college graduates is increasing...

...the number of computer and information science graduates is decreasing

Source: Department of Education, Washington

Finder and keeper

▸ Merrill Lynch's Sorgen uses training, growth potential to retain staff

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But for all the bells and whistles these systems have, users will probably never find an all-inclusive system that integrates an organization's entire collection of data sets.

CLOSER LOOK

"There is no complete risk-management system that is turnkey, nor is there ever likely to be one," said Paul Mahady, president of Market Advisory Services, Inc., a Spring Lake, N.J., market advisory firm to banks and brokerages.

Most banks store customer information on mortgage loans, fixed-income assets and typically more than a dozen other financial instruments in stovepipe systems that cut across different geographic boundaries and are poorly integrated. As a result, banks and brokerages often have to do a lot of customization and systems integration work themselves to gather data into a central repository.

Analysts say these shortcomings aren't the fault of system vendors, but rather the result of how banks have modeled their data over the past 30 years.

"Disparate systems in banks were never designed to operate together as a homogeneous whole," said David Gilbert, president and chief operating officer at CATS Software Inc., a Palo Alto, Calif., risk-management systems vendor.

An institutional investor, such as a soap manufacturer, might invest its money in fixed-income funds, equities and six other areas within the same bank. But because the bank uses separate systems to process all of those investments "it's a tremendous operational problem" for banks to map the customer's data sets together, said Larry Tabb, a technology analyst at The Tower Group, a financial services and technology consultancy in Newton, Mass.

Nevertheless, some tools ven-

Risk management, page 58

More than just the features

▸ Business factors key to choosing tools

By Patrik Dryden

FACTORS BEYOND technology come into play when large organizations are choosing whether to standardize on one product or platform.

Jim Rinaldi

A full suite can be "overkill," providing functions that won't be used.

For example, Xerox Corp. and Marriott International, Inc. were faced with similar business needs but went in opposite directions when each sought to consolidate a range of management tools to save time and money. Xerox and its outsourcer followed Computer Associates International, Inc. in Islandia, N.Y., while Marriott went with rival Tivoli Systems, Inc., a division of IBM in Austin, Texas.

"Eventually, we'll replace a whole potpourri of 10 or more nonintegrated, unipurpose tools," said Joe Grant, vice president of global technology, strategy and infrastructure at Xerox in Stamford, Conn. "We prefer effective management to expensive redundancy."

The same effort is under way at Marriott Operators wound up with "at least 20 different ways to manage" after writing home-grown scripts and introducing new tools with individual projects, said Jim Rinaldi, vice president of information systems and technology at Marriott in Washington.

The CA and Tivoli products have the same technological goal, so companies deciding between them are weighing factors other than product features, according to users, consultants

Factors, page 58

Risk management

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 97

dors address the integration issue, including Algorithmics, Inc. in Toronto and Infinity Financial Technology, Inc. in Mountain View, Calif.

Risk Management Technologies (RMT) in Berkeley, Calif., for example, offers Genesis, a data-mapping package designed to pool customer account information from a variety of sources into a central repository. Data is then fed into RMT's Radar Risk-Manager system to analyze positions and run simulations based on different interest-rate environments and market scenarios. That enables traders or risk managers to forecast performance and profitability trends.

Source: The Tower Group, Hopkinton, Mass.

Great Western Financial Corp., a Chatsworth, Calif.-based thrift that has been a Radar shop since 1993, began to use RMT's Genesis software last September to gather all of its disparate customer data.

Although Genesis has performed "reasonably well," Great Western would like to see additional improvements in data gathering, said Willie Wolfe, a first vice president of asset liability management. "That's where there's room for improvement," he said.

Quantum leaps in Unix hardware processing speeds have also made it possible for these risk-management systems to run faster than ever. For example, in the middle of last year, PNC Bank in Pittsburgh began to replace its PC-based risk management system from Sendero Corp. in Scottsdale, Ariz., with RMT's Radar system.

With the Sendero system, it takes the bank 20 minutes to run an interest income and expense model for 300 financial instruments. Using Radar, PNC can generate 200,000 cash-flow instruments in the same amount of time, said John Kubiak, vice president of risk management at the bank. Kubiak said the bank, which has $70 billion in assets, expects to go live with Radar by the second quarter.

Since it installed Radar in 1993, Chase Manhattan Mortgage Co. has received measurable benefits, such as filtering capabilities that allow Chase's risk managers to look at a specific set of mortgage loans "without having to alter the entire setup," said Tom Stenger, a portfolio manager at the Edison, N.J., company.

But Stenger said he would like to see RMT integrate Radar better with Chase's own mortgage loan prepayment models. "That's becoming the single biggest wish-list item for risk managers," Stenger said.

In loan portfolio management, "we're probably doing more sophisticated stuff than anybody in the industry," said Stenger, who placed Chase's hardware, software and testing costs at just under $1 million over the past three years.

Merrill Lynch

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 97

taking the Series Seven exam three years ago to become accredited stock traders. That "helps them understand the business from the get-go," said the raspy-voiced Sorgen.

But once Sorgen and his team get new technology talent on board, they find that Merrill Lynch's recruiting and training success can be a double-edged sword. Soon enough, the competition comes calling.

To help Merrill Lynch fend off rapacious rivals, Sorgen helped introduce a special achievement program 10 years ago that rewards technologists for their efforts on a quarterly basis. Depending on individual achievement, the bonuses can range from $3,000 to $10,000, Sorgen said.

"We try to pay for performances overall and for the quick-hit process" that has an immediate impact on profit or revenue, Sorgen said. "We don't want people to get stale in any initiative or any business. We want people to feel like they can grow within Merrill Lynch."

"We don't want people to get stale in any initiative or any business. We want people to feel like they can grow within Merrill Lynch."
– Howard Sorgen

Observers suggest that these efforts have paid off. "The quality of the people at Merrill is very strong," said Gus Oakes, president of Executive Directions, Inc., a New York-based search firm for information technology professionals that does much of its recruiting on Wall Street.

PAYS TO STAY

Opportunities have kept Maria Ciunga at Merrill Lynch. Ciunga, who went through the company's internship program in 1993, became project manager of the mortgage trading systems team three years after joining the company.

She is now assistant vice president of marketing applications at the company's London trading area, and she said she has declined several lucrative job offers from outside. "As money goes, it might not have been the best deal for me to stay put, but it's not like I haven't been rewarded," Ciunga said. "I continue to have more responsibilities put on me, and I'm constantly challenged."

Factors to consider go beyond features

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 97

and industry analysts involved in the decisions.

One key differentiator is each vendor's approach to integration. CA's Unicenter offers a full suite to tackle a long list of tasks. The Tivoli Management Environment (TME) offers a framework to support "best of breed" selection of tools, which can be implemented at a user's own pace.

"It's a philosophy issue — do you want your management all at once or step by step?" said Paul Mason, an analyst at International Data Corp. in Framingham, Mass.

A full suite is overkill because it provides more functions than the staff could initially deploy and use, Rinaldi said.

Marriott had started with fundamental management of more than 400 systems and then adopted TME to support software distribution. Other functions will follow later, Rinaldi said, as the company plugs in additional tools from Tivoli and other vendors.

DODGING A SHOWDOWN

Xerox, on the other hand, wanted to avoid "a religious debate" over which platform to use, especially when the outcome would just "depend on judgment calls," Grant said. So the company outlined its needs to Electronic Data Systems Corp. and let the outsourcer decide the best way to deliver all the required functions as soon as possible.

As a result, EDS operators already are starting to manage 1,700 Xerox servers and distribute software using Unicenter and will soon implement the suite's ability to diagnose distributed clients and LANs and to monitor vital business processes, Grant said.

The pace of implementation isn't the only question, however. Past loyalties also affect current adoptions, said Greg Cline, a director at Business Research Group in Newton, Mass.

"Old ties die hard, so if CA or IBM is entrenched in a site, then IS is more open to that vendor's management offering," Cline said.

History can work against a vendor that pitches new tool kits, however.

For example, many sources disparaged CA for past practices such as poor support and hardball sales tactics that one CA executive described as "upgrades by litigation."

But CA is working to polish its tarnished image, said analysts and CA officials.

Other users criticized IBM for ancient wrongs or regarded Tivoli as too immature despite its acquisition by IBM.

Both CA and Tivoli offer strong technology, Cline said, so "the choice comes down to your style of integration, past loyalty and belief in each vendor's future direction."

SHORTS

IBM, Trusted Ink deal

IBM has acquired the right to use RecoverKey encryption technology from Trusted Information Systems, Inc. in Glenwood, Md., as part of IBM's new SecureWay Key Management Framework. SecureWay was designed to help various key-management and recovery techniques work together.

Software churns orders

Land O' Lakes, Inc., a food and agricultural cooperative in Arden Hills, Minn., has signed a $1.2 million software contract with Industri-Matematik International Corp. in Tarrytown, N.Y. for its System ESS demand chain management system. Land O' Lakes plans to run the software on a Hewlett-Packard Co. HP 9000 to manage its order-fulfillment and accounts-receivable settlement processes.

Telecommuting on the rise?

The San Francisco Bay Area is likely to lead the nation in the growth of telecommuting, according to a Bay Area Council report. About 900,000 of the area's 3 million workers perform at least some work from home, and that number is increasing by 10% to 15% annually, the study said.

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Newark GIS ready to battle next blizzard

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 57

Newark's director of neighborhood services.

The GIS project is based on Windows NT and Unix systems. It includes a specialized Geographics computer-aided design package from Bentley Corp. in Exton, Pa., according to Robert Higgenbottom, a technical consultant for the city of Newark.

The network itself is small — six systems that run Windows NT Workstation attached to an NT Server. But more than 100 city workers and executives have access to the data.

The network provides Newark, whose population of 280,000 swells to 1 million during the working day, with a three-dimensional digital map of the city's 26 square miles and 900 streets.

For Newark's GIS network, the workstation has a colorful display, much like a video game. With images from low-altitude aerial photography, city engineers and network managers "have been able to input a sophisticated map that details every geographic landmark. That includes the height of the curbs, all buildings, trees and fire hydrants," said Donald Farkas, the city surveyor who helped implement the GIS network.

"The engineers can then print out the 3-D graphics of the streets and roads and also transmit that information to the sanitation, police and fire departments so that they can quickly be deployed to troublespots and areas hardest hit during a storm," Cooper said.

COST CUTTER

Newark's GIS network will save in labor and management costs associated with snow removal, salting and road repairs, city officials said.

Eventually, the GIS network will be expanded to manage all aspects of Newark city government and resources, ranging from more efficient census and mapping capabilities for property taxes to police and traffic-code enforcement.

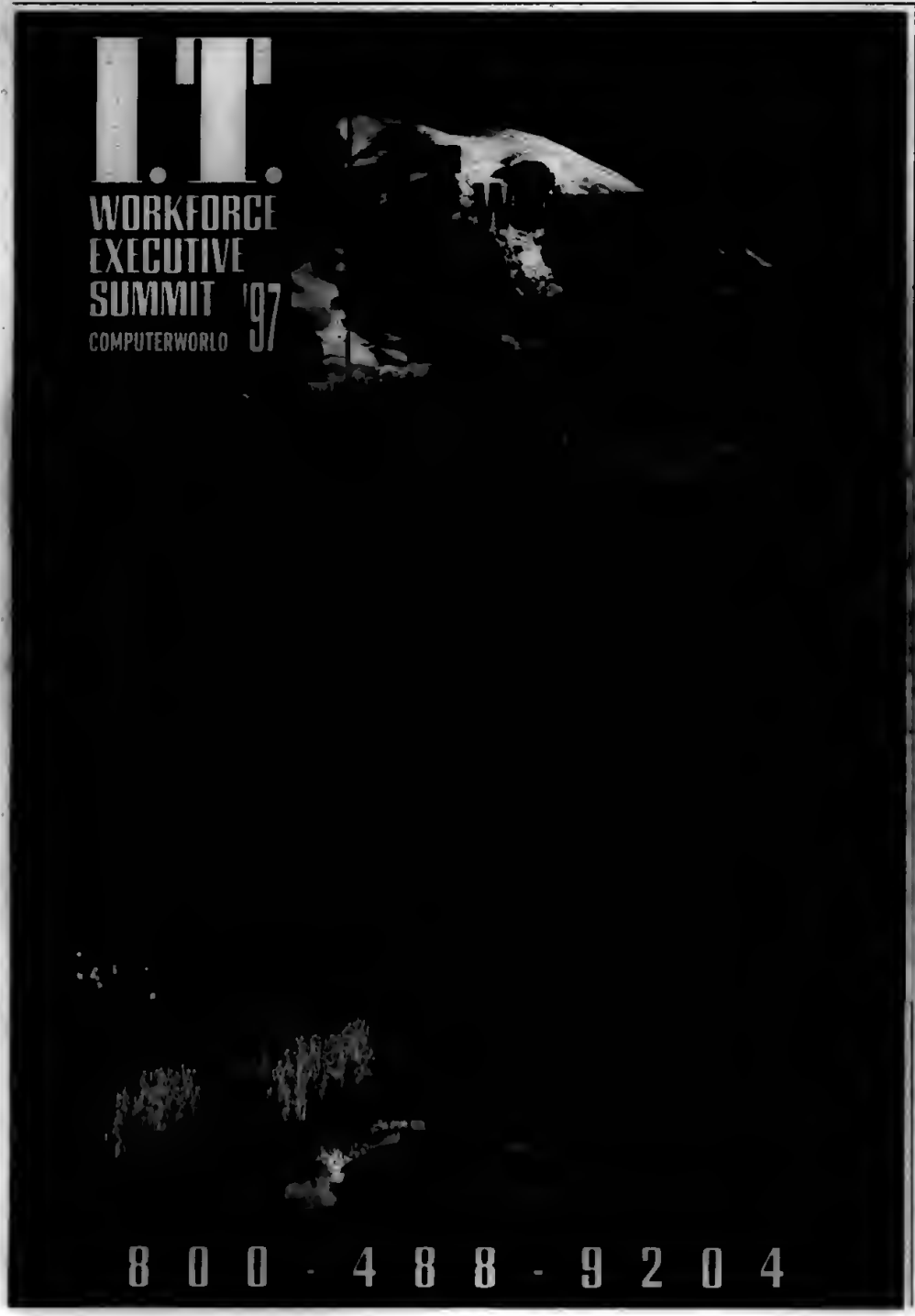
Ironically, now that the GIS network is in place, Newark has had very little snow this winter. But the city has performed several practice runs to familiarize workers with how GIS works.

There is no doubt in Anthony Lukowiak's mind that the GIS network would have made snow removal and salting operations much more efficient last winter. As acting manager of Newark's Sanitation Department, Lukowiak was in charge of all day-to-day snow removal.

When supervisors comb Newark, the system lets them dispatch information about primary and secondary streets and the status of the roads that surround hospitals and schools — areas that will then be entered into the GIS network's War Room at Sanitation headquarters. Managers can project a city map onto a screen on the office wall. And snowplow drivers can call the dispatch office on their radios to inform supervisors which streets have been plowed and update them on road conditions.

GIS also will let Newark Sanitation supervisors provide drivers with specific routes to plow, "whereas before it wasn't organized, and we wasted a lot of time on needless travel," Lukowiak said.

Lukowiak estimates that the GIS network could save as much as two to four hours per day for each snowplow and salt truck. "Since each truck costs $150 per hour, plus $50 per supervisor, we could save thousands or even tens of thousands of dollars, depending on the severity and length of each storm," Lukowiak said.



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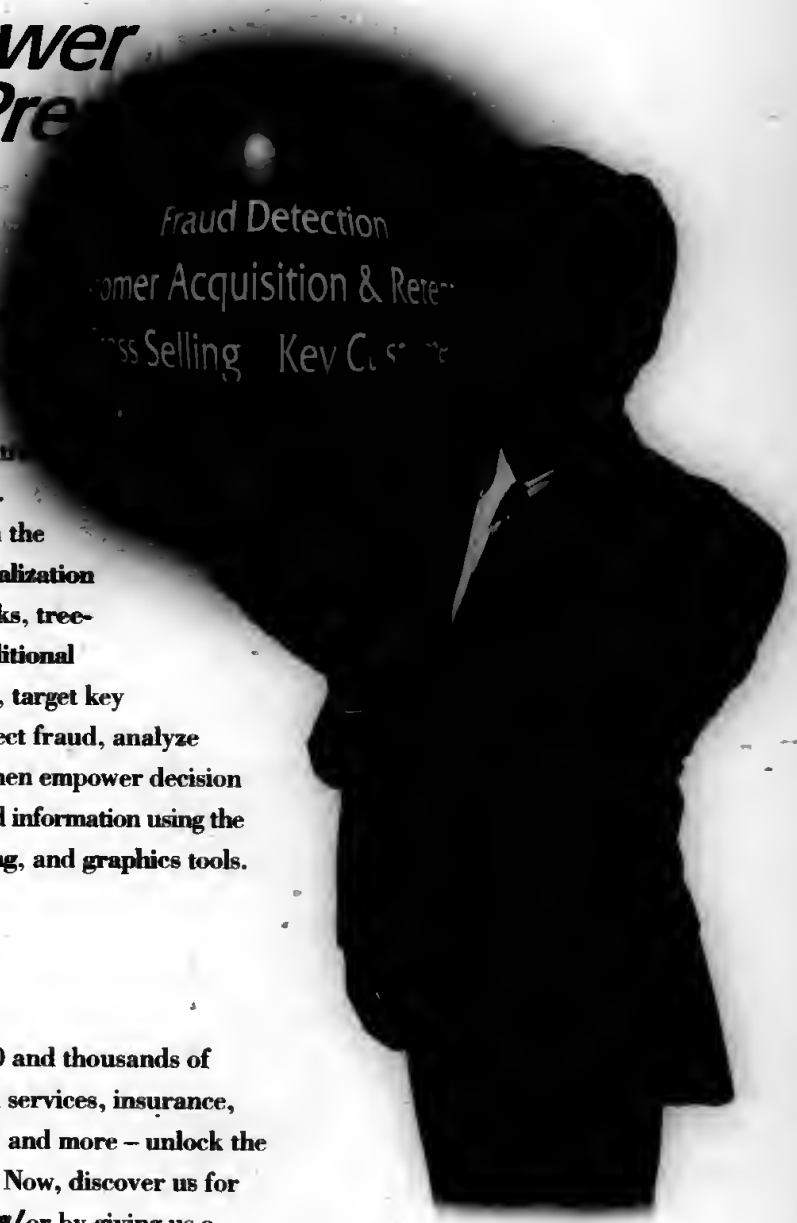

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Remote Access	3Com
Laser Printer	Hewlett Packard
Ink Jet Printer	Hewlett Packard
Dot Matrix Printer	Okidata
Disk Drive	Seagate
Tape Drive	Colorado (HP)
CD-ROM Drive	NEC
Optical Drive	Hewlett Packard
RAID	Hewlett Packard
Modems	U.S. Robotics
Uninterruptable Power Supply	American Power Conversion

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SPECIAL REPORT
SECURITY

A graduate student takes only **three and a half hours** to break the most secure encryption code that can be legally exported.

A **fired employee** encrypts the company's vital databases on his way out the door.

It's no wonder security keeps information systems managers up at night. In a recent Computer Security Institute survey, **42%** of respondents said they've experienced an intrusion or some unauthorized use of their systems in the past year. And those were the shops that would acknowledge a problem; security breaches are **notoriously underreported.**

Data theft from the inside, hacks from the outside, viruses, encryption — they all fall under the security umbrella, and they all fall to **you**. With the breadth of the field in mind, this Special Report on **security** examines the issue from several angles:

66 Senior editor Robert L. Scheier observed firsthand a comprehensive security review. He learned that all the technology in the world won't help you if strangers roam unchecked at your site.

70 Columnist Paul Strassmann, fresh from conducting a study for the U.S. secretary of defense on how to protect the nation's defense information infrastructure, explains how to protect your company's information assets.

73 Product review: We test tools that guard against groupware-borne viruses.

79 Vendors eagerly tout their servers' security bells and whistles, then disable them before shipping.

And that's not all. We also look at some of the career paths in this fast-growing field.

COMPUTERWORLD

For even more, visit our Web site: www.computerworld.com. Editor Paul Gillin and Executive Editor Maryfran Johnson this week will conduct an audio debate on the role of security — or lack of it — in Internet-based commerce.

Exposing Risks

Do you think security means high-end routers? Packet filters? Before doing all that . . .

LOCK the DAMNED DOOR!

JOHN CUSATIS

Robert L. Scheier

The hospital security chief was mighty proud of the metal detector in the emergency room. It screens for weapons so gang members can't barge in to the treatment area to finish off the victim of a stabbing or shooting.

There's just one problem. Anyone can bypass the metal detector by taking a series of elevators and hallways to an unguarded rear door of the emergency room. The most high-tech security precautions have been blindsided by a simple, obvious oversight.

Information systems professionals often make the same mistake by spending too much time fighting sophisticated electronic threats while ignoring basic problems such as unlocked doors or muddled procedures. Lax physical security and carelessness by your staff can pose as great a threat to corporate data as a hacker who works for your competition.

That became painfully clear recently when

Stats & stuff

HOTTEST AREAS OF INFILTRATION

- Theft of client information
- Theft of trade secrets
- Theft of new-product plans
- Theft of product descriptions

Source: Computer Security Institute

Cybercrime timeline

1970

1970 John Draper (Captain Crunch) fakes long-distance call tones with a whistle from a cereal box. He is arrested repeatedly throughout the 1970s for phone tampering. He's sent to jail three times.

1971

1971 Disgruntled employees of Honeywell Corp. sabotage the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. computer network and render it inoperable for a month.

1973

1973 Executives at Equity Funding Corp. of America use computers to create $2 billion in counterfeit insurance policies and assets.

Computerworld accompanied a team of security experts as they reviewed security practices at a hospital in the Southwest, which will remain unnamed for obvious reasons.

The good news: The hospital is well-protected against electronic attack from the outside. But the bigger threat to information security, the review found, is from sloppy procedures for information handling and from physical access to such things as power supplies, modems and network cables.

The review was an abbreviated version of the Net'Vestigator security reviews offered by the Network Systems Group of Storage Technology Corp. in Minneapolis. Those reviews, conducted by three of Network Systems' business partners, are conducted to reveal a client's "information vulnerabilities."

One partner, The Guidry Group, a security consulting firm in The Woodlands, Texas, focuses on physical threats to information. Those range from doors that aren't locked to fire alarm systems that don't work. Guidry consultants might sift through trash bins for unshredded documents or peer through windows to see what they can read on users' computer screens. At this health care facility, Guidry consultants found physical security to be unusually bad.

Meanwhile, WheelGroup Corp., a San Antonio security software and services company, analyzes the client's vulnerability to electronic attack from internal or external hackers. WheelGroup consultants use automated "war dialing" software to dial blocks of numbers at the client site until a modem answers. They then try to link to the host system via common remote-access software. They also scan IP addresses reserved in the client's name to learn which operating systems and network services run on those addresses. Armed with that information, the consultants can try to exploit known weaknesses in those systems.

The health care facility scored best in this area. Its centrally controlled infrastructure of Novell, Inc. NetWare LANs, mainframes and dumb terminals and its lack of Internet connections left it relatively safe from external attack. WheelGroup found a few potential weak spots, but in most cases the hospital's network administrator already knew of them or had plans to fix them.

Finally, Minneapolis law firm Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnelly evaluates the client's policies, procedures and possible liabilities. Attorney M. Peter Adler grills a string of officials about who is supposed to handle different security jobs. Again, the facility did poorly, with various IS and business managers giving confusing or vague answers.

With little accountability or emphasis on security, it's no wonder that the investigators found that it would be no problem to stroll into server rooms without being challenged, walk away with sensitive patient information and telephone numbers to incoming modem lines, cut power to large sections of the hospital and disable hundreds of network nodes by entering unlocked utility rooms.

Think this couldn't happen to you? Read on and ask yourself how your company would stand up to such a review. Then check out the story on page 68 to see how well the hospital fared in the areas of electronic safeguards as well as policies and procedures meant to keep people on their toes.

THE PAPER TRAIL

Guidry's director of investigations, Chuck Powers, and security consultant Gary Calkins play the role of invaders. Several IS and security officials know who the two men are, but none of the other hospital employees or its IS staff are aware the review is taking place. For all anyone knows, Powers and Calkins could be scam artists off the street, disgruntled employees or lawyers for an unhappy patient. But they're wearing suits, which seems to shield them from questions.

Strolling into an empty and unlocked lounge, Powers finds a dumb terminal linked to the hospital's patient-record system. The terminal is off-line, and Powers lacks the password to log on. But who needs passwords when there's a pile of patient files and X-rays sitting on a nearby desk?

The files contain a wealth of personal information that could be embarrassing to patients and a gold mine to a criminal. They include patients' names, addresses, home and work phone numbers and Social Security numbers, plus intimate details of the patients' symptoms and treatments. Powers and Calkins casually sit down and begin copying information from the records, one of which is for a patient who was discharged two weeks earlier. In another lounge, an unattended printer spits out orders that identify which patients are receiving which treatments.

"It's foolish to have security passwords and cryptographic information on the computer if that same information is printed on paper lying in unlocked offices," says Donn Parker, senior management systems consultant at SRI Consulting, a security consulting firm in Menlo Park, Calif.

Leaving such records out in the open is not only a breach of patient confidentiality, but it also could open the door to civil or criminal action, Adler says.

WHO'S MINDING THE FUSE BOX?

"Want to take down the network?" the network administrator grins mischievously, pointing to a row of white coaxial cables on the wall of a utility room. Ripping out those wires, he says, would disable most of the terminals that provide patient information in the emergency room. Farther down the wall is a line of unlocked electrical boxes full of circuit breakers that control power to various parts of the hospital.

Lock the door, page 68

Only **16.9%** of respondents who experienced computer intrusions in 1995 reported them to law enforcement

Source: Computer Security Institute's 1996 CSI/FBI Computer Crime and Security Survey

HAS YOUR COMPANY EXPERIENCED UNAUTHORIZED USE OF ITS COMPUTER SYSTEMS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS?

21% Don't know
37% No
42% Yes

Source: Computer Security Institute's 1996 CSI/FBI Computer Crime and Security Survey

1980

1980 The first recorded worm takes control of the experimental Ethernet at Xerox Parc.

1981

1981 Kevin Mitnick, 17, is convicted and placed on parole for stealing computer manuals from a Pacific Bell switching station.

1982

1982 Kevin Mitnick gains national notoriety for breaking in to the North American Air Defense Command computer. He also seizes temporary control of three phone company central offices in Manhattan and gains access to all the phone switching centers in California. He reprograms someone's home phone so that each time the receiver is picked up, a recording asks for a coin deposit.

Lock the door

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 67

The network administrator calls two staff electricians to decipher the faded labels on the circuit breakers. Neither can say which parts of the hospital the circuits control. With Powers and Calkins watching, s maintenance man sheepishly locks the door but doesn't check it. Two minutes later, a man carrying a ladder walks up and opens the door with a hard tug.

Even when the network administrator knows he has a yawning security gap, he can't fix it. One wiring hub, consisting of a thick cluster of 10Base-T wiring, Ethernet hubs and patch panels, sits in a corner of a storage and copier room. Why doesn't he put up a wall around the wiring to protect it from sabotage? Because the hospital's communications department "threw a hissy fit" before letting him put the equipment in its room, he laughs, and a wall would also need the department's approval.

JOHN COSSETTI

ALL IT TAKES IS CHUTZPAH

Powers gets into the locked data center by simply pushing the buzzer. Walking in, he casually tells the one IS staffer in sight, "We're just here to take a look at your systems." Rather than challenging the intruders, the staffer cheerfully nods and goes back to work, leaving Powers and Calkins to wander among servers, routers, terminals and tape backups. They could just as easily be rebooting servers or stealing backup tapes. Powers, using the same technique, later breezes into the central medical records unit and waves s thank-you to the receptionist as he walks out with a patient's file.

"There's no [management] emphasis on security, and therefore there's no awareness of security" on the part of employees, Adler says. Other companies have done everything from giving bonuses to employees who challenge interlopers to the less costly route of simply putting up posters about the need for security. "Until the company can get top-down policy and processes," he says, "they're going to continue to have these types of lapses."

Scheier is Computerworld*'s senior editor, management.*

A MIXED DIAGNOSIS

Here's how the hospital fared in the Network Systems Group's review

ELECTRONIC SECURITY

The hospital did fairly well, says Scott Waddell, director of technical operations at WheelGroup. Its centrally controlled infrastructure of NetWare LANs, mainframes and dumb terminals is relatively secure because it isn't linked to the Internet. Its Unix servers are only interfaces between internal applications and the mainframe, and they don't run vulnerable services such as Hypertext Transport Protocol and file transfer protocol.

Waddell was able to scan the facility's IP addresses to get s list of operating systems snd network services. Other WheelGroup reviewers were able to access the hsrd drive of s network monitoring workstation and get information about the configuration of the hospital's network. But those intrusions would just tell a hacker where to attack next rather than give him actual access to applications or data.

Bottom line: "Without s [network] account snd s password, you're pretty severely limited as to what you can get access to," Waddell says.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Much worse than average, the reviewers say. When asked who's in charge of data security, the network administrator says it's probably him, "but I'm not so sure I have the knowledge" to do the job. The security chief says he too thinks data security is his job but scknowledges he focuses on physical security.

For years, the network administrator has tried to control which users get modems snd phone lines to reduce the risk of hackers dialing in and attacking the network. But influential doctors and administrators skirt the guidelines, he says, resulting in at least 75 unauthorized modems on site. The communications department doesn't even tell him when it installs phone lines for the modems.

PHYSICAL SECURITY

Much worse than average, the reviewers say. The threats extend far beyond those to information (see main story.) Despite s network of security cameras that monitor hallways, the reviewers could walk unchsllenged into supply rooms filled with drugs and syringes and could wander around patient care areas unimpeded, even late at night. — Robert L. Scheier

There are around **10,000** known viruses. Of those, **200 to 220** currently pose a threat, according to Jonathan Wheat, antivirus lab manager at the National Computer Security Association in Carlisle, Pa.

The No. 1 security incident that affects respondents' sites is viruses and malicious code, according to Datapro Information Services' 1996 Internationsl Survey on Information Security.

1983

1983 "We were just playing s game," says Neil Patrick, who was convicted of computer trespassing, along with six other Milwaukee teens. Among the alleged break-ins: The New York Memorial-Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Security Pacific National Bank and Los Alamos National Laboratory.

1985

1985 A yearlong investigation uncovers s ring of 30 University of Southern California students who changed grades, created fraudulent degrees and even sold doctoral degrees for up to $25,000.

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WHAT'S THE BEST DEFENSE? BEING PREPARED

PAUL STRASSMANN

It's time for information executives to turn fearful. CIOs must become as aggressive about information security as the professional spies and thieves who threaten them.

Professional thieves and blackmailers, not amateur or prankster hackers, traverse the global network seeking opportunities to steal money, launder illegal funds or extort political concessions. They have an exceptionally high level of technological sophistication.

Information warfare is raging on the economic front. Governments and businesses seek an advantage over rivals through cybercrime and electronic espionage. Their targets: information assets such as engineering drawings, process flowcharts, experimental data, software, patent applications, test results, financial data, customer prospect lists, business proposals and litigation documents.

How will your company's computers fare when they come under attack? And if you are the CIO, how will you fare? Like it or not, chief information officers are also chief information security officers. You must answer for the fragility of your company's information systems.

Here's what CIOs need to do:

1. TAKE CHARGE OF SECURITY

CIOs must accept the security, integrity and availability of their companies' computer networks as one of their key responsibilities. That responsibility can't be outsourced.

The office of the CIO must have the charter to collect, analyze and understand incidents whenever it detects information-security infractions, regardless of where they occur. The CIO must have the means to monitor compliance with information-assurance policies. The board of directors, and specifically the board's audit committee, should look to the CIO to certify that information-security exposures don't exceed specified expectations.

CIOs also must direct their development staff to make information security an inherent element of IS design. Retrofitting security into a system designed on the presumption of innocence and honesty is often too expensive — or too late — to be worth doing.

2. CREATE INDEPENDENT CENTRAL SECURITY STAFFS

Large companies need a knowledgeable and trusted staff of experts who can analyze threats to their business and install countermeasures against information attacks. That includes attacks that ask for help from trusted insiders, such as employees and contractors. The staff should oversee the following:

- INFORMATION-SECURITY ASSURANCE: Informing top managers about the quality, robustness and reliability of existing information-security capabilities.
- SECURITY COORDINATION: Making sure the functions that influence information security perform as an integrated process, not as separate tasks.
- INCIDENT EVALUATION: Evaluating and accounting for every case in which information security is compromised or suspected of being compromised.

The security staff must have the authority to review all information-handling practices and procedures to ensure that systems are secure.

Companies also need an independent technical review organization to certify their information-security design practices. Without independent certification, the danger frequently is that those who cause information-security exposures won't recognize that they have done so.

3. PROTECT THE SECURITY BUDGET

CIOs must champion investing a significant share of IS resources in security.

Companies are kept from taking security seriously by organizational indifference to strict security precautions; competing interests, such as quickly filling technical positions without thoroughly checking the personal backgrounds of candidates; and disincentives to security cooperation, such as making information easily available to everyone. Security funding becomes a tempting target for executives seeking money for pet projects.

Security funding faces two problems: Information security is expensive, and the payback isn't apparent until it's too late. One security-minded company budgeted $310 per person to cover the cost of security: secure ID cards, antivirus software, an Internet firewall server, secure ID numbers for employees in transit, encryption software, intrusion detection systems, central security administration and a security-testing staff. Add the cost of delays and inconveniences caused by security practices, and the cost balloons to $1,000 per person per year — as much as 10% to 15% of workstation expenses.

One solution is to eliminate all use of diskettes, floppy disks, removable disk cartridges and removable hard drives from the network unless a verifiable and tamper-proof usage record can be left. At least a quarter of the cost of ownership can be traced to incidents involving removable media. When a user inserts incompatible or faulty software, he creates conditions that magnify the demand for support services. Almost every breach in information security is traceable to network access via a removable disk.

Corporate executives sometimes find my information-security observations unduly alarming. To them I say, "It's only a matter of time before a crippling failure of a critically important computer installation takes place. Paranoia — a state of anxiety that somebody may do you harm — isn't always based on imaginary fears. If you can think of a rival who wishes your company harm, then prudence may be essential for survival."

Strassmann (paul@strassmann.com) is adjunct professor of information warfare at National Defense University in Fort McNair, Wash. He recently participated in a one-year study for the U.S. secretary of defense on how to protect the nation's defense information infrastructure.

"The chances of getting a virus are increased dramatically due to the Internet."

says Jonathan Wheat, antivirus lab manager at the National Computer Security Association

71% of 1,320 poll participants expressed a lack of confidence in the security of their computer networks, according to the fourth annual Ernst & Young/*InformationWeek* Information Security Survey.

1986

1986 Cliff Stoll, Unix administrator at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, uncovers a pattern of unauthorized access. The hackers turn out to be two West Germans who have struck a deal, "Project Equalizer," with KGB agents.

1986 Kevin Mitnick breaks in to the National Computer Security Center's Dockmaster computer by posing as a technician and gaining a user's password.

1986 Often claimed to be the first computer virus, the Pakistani Brain surfaces at the University of Maryland and spreads through the U.S., infecting thousands of systems.

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PRODUCT REVIEW

Antivirus Software

New tools protect against groupware-borne viruses

Holding the FORT

By Thomas S. Parkhurst

LINKING INTERNAL NETWORKS to the Internet brings the world to your front door. But it can also let a few unwanted guests in the back door in the form of viruses.

Users may unwittingly foster the spread of those viruses through popular groupware packages. For example, you can receive infected executables as simple attachments to electronic-mail messages.

And there are groupware-specific security issues. For example, it's possible that viruses could alter the functionality of some standard buttons in Lotus Development Corp.'s Notes or that hot spots could be placed in a Notes form, causing the code to be executed simply by passing your mouse pointer over it.

Client/Server Labs, Inc. has reviewed the following products from three vendors that promise to specifically address groupware virus protection:

- **Cheyenne Software, Inc.'s AntiVirus Agent 1.0 for Lotus Notes and Microsoft Exchange**
- **McAfee Associates, Inc.'s GroupShield 3.1 for Lotus Notes**
- **Trend Micro, Inc.'s ScanMail 1.0 Beta for Microsoft Exchange**

Our test groupware server was a dual 200-MHz Pentium processor with 256M bytes of RAM, running Microsoft Corp.'s Windows NT 4.0. The clients were 166-MHz Pentiums with 32M bytes of RAM configured with Microsoft's NT 3.51. Notes 4.0 and Microsoft Exchange 4.0 were installed on the server.

We collected viruses from several sources. They included a mix of executable viruses and document macro viruses. During the course of the review, we also received several experimental viruses that were specific to Notes buttons and forms. Although no native Notes viruses have been reported outside of testing and development laboratories, we felt it would be valuable to include those viruses in our tests.

Overall, each product did the job it was intended to do — prevent virus infection within the groupware environment. Each also demonstrated strengths in particular niches.

Cheyenne's two protection suites provide consistency in installation, operation and maintenance for organizations that have more than one type of groupware package. McAfee's unique protection against native Notes viruses — spotting them before they're found in distribution — may appeal to corporations that have experienced losses from attacks of unknown viruses.

And Trend Micro provides a simple, integrated package for basic Microsoft Exchange virus protection. The package is easy to use and maintain.

Holding the fort, page 74

Parkhurst is a senior software developer at Client/Server Labs, Inc. (www.cslinc.com) in Atlanta, a primary test lab partner of Computerworld.

Only **15%** of respondents incorporate encryption and only **28%** incorporate firewalls into their security strategy, despite their concerns about Internet access, according to Datapro Information Services' Computer Security Issues: 1996 Survey.

MCI

In Datapro Information Services' 1996 International Survey on Information Security, **57%** of those reporting security incidents said the perpetrators were current employees.

1988

1988 Robert Morris Jr.'s "Internet Worm" cripples Internet traffic.

1988 The Jerusalem virus is discovered at Hebrew University. On Friday the 13th, the virus erases a drive, after having first generated trash to fill up disk space and slow down the system.

1988 For months, Kevin Mitnick, 25, secretly monitors the E-mail of MCI and Digital security officials. Digital accuses him of causing $4 million worth of damage to computer operations and stealing $1 million worth of software. Mitnick is convicted and receives a one-year jail sentence.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 73

AntiVirus Agent 1.0 for Notes and Exchange

Cheyenne Software, Inc.
www.cheyenne.com

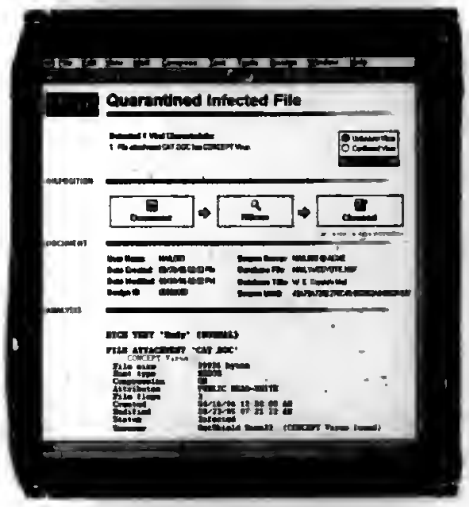
CHEYENNE IS THE ONLY VENDOR of the three we included in our testing that offers antivirus options for Notes and Exchange. The groupware software — AntiVirus Agent for Lotus Notes or AntiVirus Agent for Microsoft Exchange — is bundled with Cheyenne's client software (InocuLAN 4 for Windows NT) and with its server backup utilities on one CD, the Cheyenne Protection Suite for Windows NT. Both AntiVirus Agents require InocuLAN, which manages the virus detection and cleaning.

Limited approach for Notes

The Cheyenne Protection Suite for Lotus Notes takes a much more limited approach than does the McAfee product. Cheyenne protects against only proven Notes risks by examining all documents attached to E-mail messages and Notes databases. At this time, it doesn't attempt to check for native Notes viruses or other possible security loopholes. It doesn't provide facilities for the scanning of encrypted files.

Full protection

The Cheyenne Protection Suite for Microsoft Exchange, on the other hand, provides the full set of protection features that are available through Trend Micro's ScanMail, with the exception of the Virtual Virus Hospital. But InocuLAN has many nice features that improve server security and ease maintenance. InocuLAN can be configured with a Virus Wall. The wall prevents workstation infection of the server by stopping an infected file from being copied to a server and replacing it with a clean version of the file. InocuLAN can scan all files moving among mapped drives. It can also provide floppy disk drive protection on the server. All file downloads to the server through the Internet are also scanned before they are saved. Cheyenne helps to ease maintenance of a large Microsoft Exchange installation by creating InocuLAN Domains that group several Exchange servers into logical domains.



GroupShield 3.1 for Notes

McAfee Associates, Inc.
www.mcafee.com

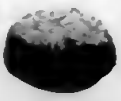
MCAFEE'S GROUPSHIELD 3.1 boasts real-time virus detection and removal on incoming and outgoing messages; good client interfaces to manage real-time scanning and user-initiated database scans; and a virus quarantine area for diagnosis and cleanup of virus-infected files.

Distinctions

GroupShield is the only product reviewed that protects against native Notes macro viruses and other security loopholes in Notes. McAfee has adopted a better-safe-than-sorry approach by setting up protection before these viruses infect the public. GroupShield can identify documents that contain potentially malicious code and disable the questionable code. GroupShield also scans encrypted messages as they are opened by the user.

The downside

GroupShield has a few problems. The product was developed by two companies. Sybari Software, Inc. produced the Notes support with a command line interface to the McAfee antivirus engine. This creates a few maintenance and installation issues that should be mostly resolved in Version 3.1.3, which is scheduled to be released early in March. And the process of updating the virus definition files, which should be done monthly, is tedious.



TOP FIVE SECURITY INCIDENTS GLOBALLY

1 Viruses and malicious code **64%**
2 Password exposure **27%**
3 Theft of computer equipment **27%**
4 Information leaks **13%**
5 Insufficient security **12%**

Source: Datapro Information Services' 1996 International Survey on Information Security

SIGNS OF VIRUS INFILTRATION

Sluggish disk access
Data or program files are damaged
Applications take longer to load
Rare or unusual error messages appear
Memory becomes constrained

Source: Gartner Group

1988

1988 The Stoned virus appears. It infects boot records on disks and hard drives and leaves behind the message "Your PC is now stoned!"

1989

1989 The Worms Against Nuclear Killers worm is released. It seeks out privileged accounts, modifies command procedures, disables E-mail and changes passwords.

1989 Three participants in "Project Equalizer" are arrested by West German police. The burnt body of another hacker involved is found in the woods.

1990

1990 "Project Equalizer" hackers are convicted of spying for Soviets. They are sentenced to jail but receive probation.

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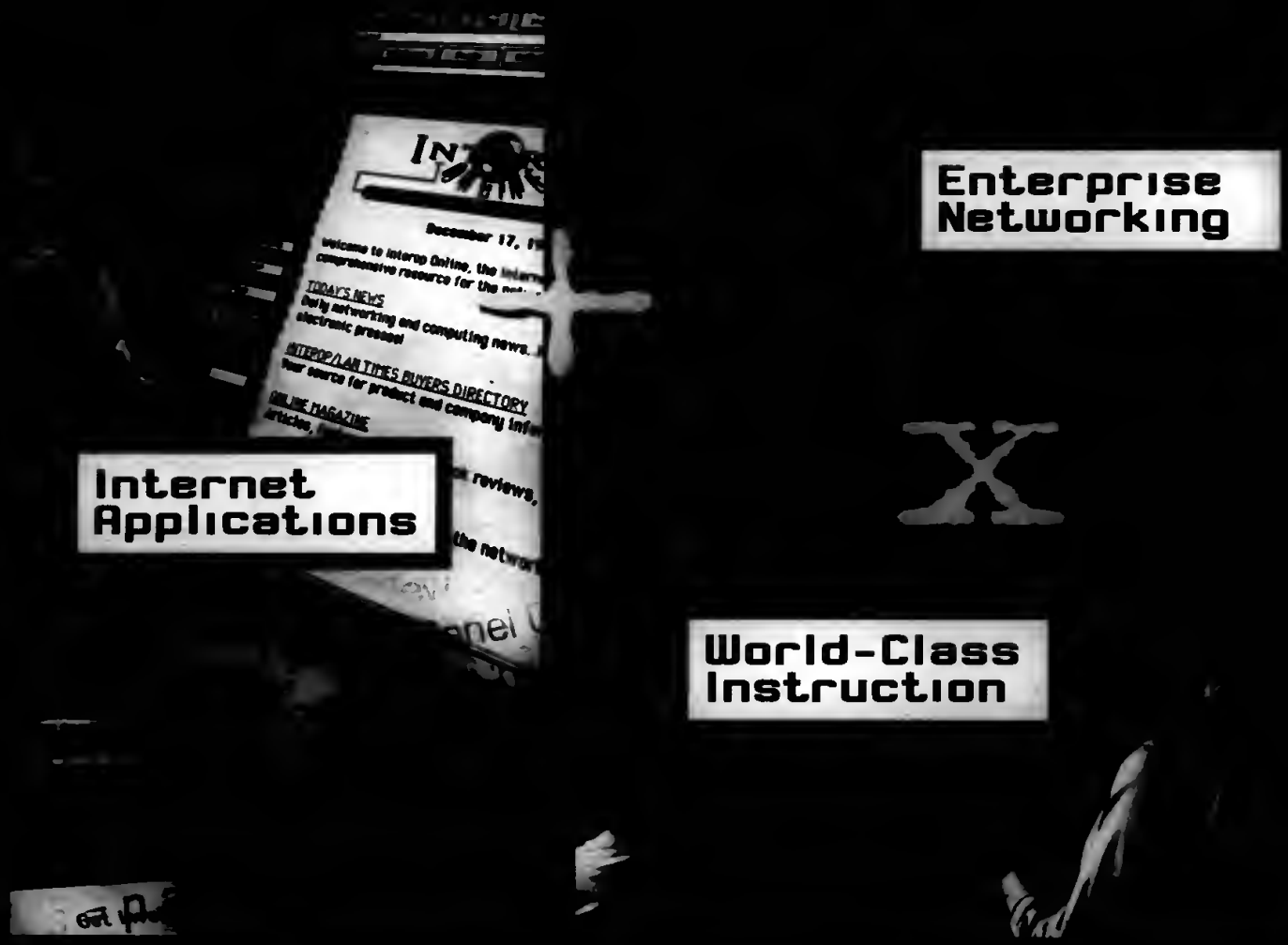

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50 Business Service (except DP)
60 Government - State/Federal/Local
65 Communications Systems/Public Utilities/Transportation
70 Mining/Construction/Petroleum/ Refining/Agriculture
80 Manufacturer of Computers, Computer-Related Systems or Peripherals
85 Systems Integrators, VARs, Computer Service Bureaus, Software Planning & Consulting Services
90 Computer/Peripheral Dealer/Dist./ Retailer
95 Other_____ (Please Specify)

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21 Dir./Mgr. MIS Services, Information Center
22 Dir./Mgr. Network Sys., Data/Tele Comm., LAN Mgr./PC Mgr., Tech Planning, Administrative Services
23. Dir./Mgr. Sys. Development, System Architecture
31 Programming Management, Software Developers
41 Engineering, Scientific, R&D, Tech. Management
60 Sys. Integrators/VARs/Consulting Management
CORPORATE MANAGEMENT
11 President, Owner/Partner, General Mgr.
12 Vice President, Asst. Vice President
13. Treasurer, Controller, Financial Officer
DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT
51. Sales & Mktg. Management
70 Medical, Legal, Accounting Mgt.
OTHER PROFESSIONAL MANAGEMENT
80 Information Centers/Libraries, Educators, Journalists, Students
90. Other Titled Personnel

3. Do you use, evaluate, specify, recommend, purchase (Circle all that apply.)
Operating Systems:
(a) Solaris (e) Mac OS
(b) Netware (f) Windows NT
(c) OS/2 (g) Windows
(d) Unix (h) NeXTstep
App. Development Products ❒ Yes ❒ No
Networking Products ❒ Yes ❒ No
Intranet Products ❒ Yes ❒ No

4. Which of the following products do you buy, specify, recommend or approve the purchase of? (Check all that apply.)
(a) ❒ Internet software
(b) ❒ Internet browsers
(c) ❒ Web authoring/development tools

5. Do you use the Internet? ❒ Yes ❒ No

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50 Business Service (except DP)
60 Government - State/Federal/Local
65 Communications Systems/Public Utilities/Transportation
70 Mining/Construction/Petroleum/ Refining/Agriculture
80 Manufacturer of Computers, Computer-Related Systems or Peripherals
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90 Computer/Peripheral Dealer/Dist./ Retailer
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22. Dir./Mgr. Network Sys., Data/Tele. Comm., LAN Mgr./PC Mgr., Tech Planning, Administrative Services
23. Dir./Mgr. Sys. Development, System Architecture
31 Programming Management, Software Developers
41. Engineering, Scientific, R&D, Tech. Management
60 Sys. Integrators/VARs/Consulting Management
CORPORATE MANAGEMENT
11 President, Owner/Partner, General Mgr.
12 Vice President, Asst. Vice President
13 Treasurer, Controller, Financial Officer
DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT
51 Sales & Mktg. Management
70 Medical, Legal, Accounting Mgt.
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Operating Systems:
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(b) Netware (f) Windows NT
(c) OS/2 (g) Windows
(d) Unix (h) NeXTstep
App. Development Products ❒ Yes ❒ No
Networking Products ❒ Yes ❒ No
Intranet Products ❒ Yes ❒ No

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(b) ❒ Internet browsers
(c) ❒ Web authoring/development tools

5. Do you use the Internet? ❒ Yes ❒ No

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 74

ScanMail 1.0 Beta for Exchange

Trend Micro, Inc.
www.trendmicro.com

TREND MICRO'S SCANMAIL was scheduled for release late in February. The beta version we reviewed performed very well; it identified and cleaned each of our infected test messages.

ScanMail's features include automatic, real-time scanning when a new message arrives at the Exchange Server, automatic cleaning of infected files and immediate notification of the sender, recipient and administrator of any incidents of viruses. ScanMail also contains a Virtual Virus Hospital for diagnosing and cleaning infected files. It is similar to McAfee's quarantine area. The Virus Hospital includes automatic E-mail links to Trend Micro's Virus Hospital for additional assistance with an infected file. New viruses are constantly being created, and regular updates of virus patterns are necessary for effective virus protection. ScanMail simplifies updating through an easy-to-use facility for updating the list of virus patterns automatically on a pre-scheduled basis through the Internet. That updated list can be automatically distributed among all Microsoft Exchange servers on a company's intranet.

Limited scope

ScanMail's scope is limited to Microsoft Exchange protection, but Trend Micro distributes a suite of applications that protect the server and client workstations from any other virus threat. There is also a Notes version of ScanMail that is planned for release in March.

DEFINITION: Virus - A software program capable of replicating itself and usually capable of wreaking havoc on the system.

SOURCE: NEWTON'S TELECOM DICTIONARY

DEFINITION: Worm - A computer program that replicates itself. The Internet worm was perhaps the most famous; it successfully (and accidentally) duplicated itself on many systems across the Internet.

SOURCE: NEWTON'S TELECOM DICTIONARY.

1990

1990 Robert Morris Jr. is convicted and fined $10,000.

1991

1991 A programmer who quit his job at General Dynamics Corp. drops a logic bomb in to its Atlas database before he leaves. He hopes to be rehired at a premium to fix it. It is discovered by another programmer before it goes off.

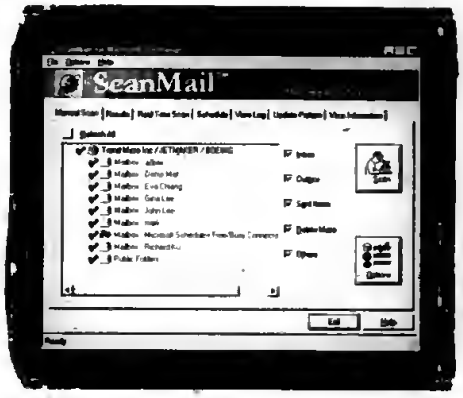
1992

1992 The Michelangelo virus appears on March 6, the artist's birthday.

1993

1993 California state police issue a warrant for the arrest of Kevin Mitnick. They accuse him of wiretapping calls from the FBI to the California Department of Motor Vehicles and using law enforcement access codes — gleaned from the wiretaps — to illegally gain entry to the drivers' license database.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 74



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ScanMail's features include automatic, real-time scanning when a new message arrives at the Exchange Server, automatic cleaning of infected files and immediate notification of the sender, recipient and administrator of any incidents of viruses. ScanMail also contains a Virtual Virus Hospital for diagnosing and cleaning infected files. It is similar to McAfee's quarantine area. The Virus Hospital includes automatic E-mail links to Trend Micro's Virus Hospital for additional assistance with an infected file. New viruses are constantly being created, and regular updates of virus patterns are necessary for effective virus protection. ScanMail simplifies updating through an easy-to-use facility for updating the list of virus patterns automatically on a pre-scheduled basis through the Internet. That updated list can be automatically distributed among all Microsoft Exchange servers on a company's intranet.

Limited scope

ScanMail's scope is limited to Microsoft Exchange protection, but Trend Micro distributes a suite of applications that protect the server and client workstations from any other virus threat. There is also a Notes version of ScanMail that is planned for release in March

Norton antivirus tool acts as gateway sentinel

Symantec Corp.
www.symantec.com

SYMANTEC HAS EXPANDED its Norton AntiVirus line of products to include antivirus protection for Internet E-mail. The Norton AntiVirus Internet Email Gateways protects networks that use Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) gateways. After testing three groupware-oriented antivirus products, Client/Server Labs ran preliminary tests using a beta version of the Norton product.

The Gateways software monitors incoming and outgoing SMTP mail and can be used alone or with groupware antivirus protection software to safeguard E-mail traffic that isn't groupware-specific.

It works by taking over the existing SMTP port. It sits between the SMTP gateway and the Internet. All SMTP mail must pass through Norton Gateways to be certified before it's allowed to enter the corporate network. All this happens transparently and with little performance degradation.

The product is based on the Norton AntiVirus engine with extensions that are specific to E-mail systems. The Gateways software detects and removes viruses attached to E-mail messages in UUENCODE and MIME compression formats as well as the standard .EXE, .DOC and compressed files. Administrators can easily add support for new file types.

Symantec recommends that a company using an SMTP gateway provided by a groupware vendor, should install Norton AntiVirus Internet Email Gateways on a machine other than the groupware server. In our single-server tests with Microsoft Exchange, we found port contention problems for the default SMTP port. That forced us to change our E-mail client's configuration so it could find the Gateways software. Installing the product on a separate machine eliminates these problems, but creates an extra consideration when pricing the product.

The Gateways software, when used with Symantec's Norton AntiVirus for Windows NT, provides solid antivirus protection for any E-mail server that doesn't use groupware. In a groupware environment, the Norton AntiVirus Internet Email Gateways successfully fills a security hole left open by all groupware antivirus products. — *Thomas Parkhurst*

DEFINITION: Virus - A software program capable of replicating itself and usually capable of wreaking havoc on the system.

SOURCE: NEWTON'S TELECOM DICTIONARY

DEFINITION: Worm - A computer program that replicates itself. The Internet worm was perhaps the most famous; it successfully (and accidentally) duplicated itself on many systems across the Internet.

SOURCE: NEWTON'S TELECOM DICTIONARY

1990

1990 **Robert Morris Jr. is convicted and fined $10,000.**

1991

1991 **A programmer who quit his job at General Dynamics Corp. drops a logic bomb in to its Atlas database before he leaves. He hopes to be rehired at a premium to fix it. It is discovered by another programmer before it goes off.**

1992

1992 **The Michelangelo virus appears on March 6, the artist's birthday.**

1993

1993 **California state police issue a warrant for the arrest of Kevin Mitnick. They accuse him of wiretapping calls from the FBI to the California Department of Motor Vehicles and using law enforcement access codes — gleaned from the wiretaps — to illegally gain entry to the drivers' license database.**

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Easy access:

Vendors disable security features before shipping

Between the CRACKS

By Alan R. Earls

STELLA JOHNSON

RICK FARROW TELLS OF A VENDOR that routinely shipped its servers "with wild-card features that meant they would automatically trust any machine that logged on to them. For customers opening the box, it was great. The machine was up and running in no time."

Farrow, a consultant in Sedona, Ariz., is asked about the security implications. "For security," he says flatly, "it was terrible."

The biggest security problems — laziness with passwords and too-easy access to data centers, for example — are created by people within the organization. But information systems shops do seek software and hardware with advanced protection against unauthorized access. Vendors in turn happily tout these security features.

Between the cracks, page 80

WIDE PHOTO

DEFINITION: Hacker - Hacker has come to mean a person who breaks in to other people's computers with malicious intent. SOURCE: COMPUTER SECURITY INSTITUTE

DEFINITION: Phreaking - Employing technology to attack the public telephone system and get free long-distance service. SOURCE: NEWTON'S TELECOM DICTIONARY

DEFINITION: Dumpster diving - Searching for access codes or other sensitive information found in the trash. SOURCE: NEWTON'S TELECOM DICTIONARY

1994

1994 Christopher Schanot breaks in to Southwestern Bell's computer systems, and the company spends more than $80,000 on investigation and cleanup.

1994 MIT student David LaMacchia is indicted for releasing more than $1 million worth of pirated software over the Internet. Charges are dropped.

1994 A Texas A&M University professor receives death threats after a hacker logs on to his computer from off campus and sends 20,000 racist E-mail messages using his Internet address.

Between the CRACKS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 79

Too often, though, the features are disabled before the product ships. In an extreme case, Citibank in New York blamed vendor security lapses for break-ins that siphoned off $10 million.

M. E. Kabay, the Montreal-based director of education at the National Computer Security Association (NCSA), can rattle off a long list of similar debacles.

"Although the industry pays lip service to security concerns, security features are harder to sell," Kabay says.

He says this begins a cycle of laxity in which vendors provide weaker protection, fail to adequately test security features and de-emphasize the information needed to use these features fully.

Daniel Geer, director of engineering at Cambridge, Mass.-based Open Market, Inc., an electronic-commerce firm, stresses that the greatest dangers stem from corrupt insiders. But he agrees that vendors must share the blame. Geer, who once ran a security consulting firm, says, "The problem is not limited to any particular vendor and includes both hardware and software people."

Security gaps left by vendors often allow easy access through backup systems, which by their nature tend to override normal operational protocols, he says. Individual applications also may have security features turned off, potentially permitting entrance to other parts of the system.

> "Vendor accountability is crucial and, unfortunately has been lost

Industry insiders acknowledge there is a problem. "When you are trying to get a product out the door, security features may not be among the top 10 concerns, though customers often demand it later," says Richard Asmuth, senior consultant at Bellcore in Piscataway, N.J. What's more, he says, the locus for security seems increasingly to be in software — within browsers and World Wide Web-oriented products, for example.

But now the issue is getting some attention from the hardware community. Feisal Mosleh, marketing manager of security products at Hewlett-Packard Co., says his company's policy is to ship machines with all security features fully enabled. "It is then up to the customer to turn off those features if they so desire," he says.

But Mosleh agrees there's still a gap between the ordinary security features found on most servers and the expanding security needs of customers. He says HP identified growing security concerns as a market opportunity two years ago and is pushing its dedicated security server, called Praesidium, as a means for coordinating overlapping software security issues across the enterprise.

Neither Digital Equipment Corp. nor Sun Microsystems, Inc. returned calls regarding this story.

Echoing Kabay's contention that vendors sometimes fail to adequately test security features, Dan Kusnetzky, an analyst at International Data Corp. in Framingham, Mass., points out that "environments are very complex, and each is different from the others; vendors simply can't test every possible combination."

But John Haggard and Barry Schrager, both formerly employed at SKK, Inc., a mainframe software firm now owned by Computer Associates International, Inc., say vendors need to take back more of the initiative in addressing glitches, break-ins and viruses when they crop up. "If we [at SKK] found a security/integrity hole, it was treated as a Severity One problem — meaning it had the same priority as our code stopping a mainframe from processing," Schrager says.

Haggard is now president of Vasco Data Security, Inc. in Lombard, Ill., which produces security products based on cryptography and hardware. He says vendor accountability has been replaced by the ad hoc approach of the Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERT) popularized by the NCSA. Haggard says he worries that the CERT approach — publishing detailed descriptions of known problems on the Web — forces organizations to stay on top of the bugs and break-ins, while at the same time providing open access to hackers and criminals. "Vendor accountability is crucial to the whole equation and, unfortunately, has been lost," he says.

But vendor accountability — some might say vendor secrecy — as it was practiced in the mainframe environment of the past is impossible to achieve today, Kabay says. He contends that anything other than universal disclosure of viruses and other security problems compounds problems.

There's still plenty of room for additional user-friendly security measures, according to William J. Orvis, a member of the Computer Incident Advisory Capability team at the University of California Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in Livermore, Calif. "I would like to see more installation wizards that lead the user through the security settings when a system is installed, forcing him to choose the level of security" that is appropriate, he says.

In the end, though, it's up to IS to demand not only better security features, but that those features be active and properly documented when IS takes shipment of products. "Let's face it," Farrow says. "As soon as the average IS manager gets a machine running, his boss is after him to get going on some other project. Strengthening security doesn't get the attention."

Earls is a freelance writer in Franklin, Mass.

DEFINITION: Trojan horse - Software that appears to do something normal but contains a trap door or attack program. A Trojan horse program can be used to break in to a network through a World Wide Web site.

SOURCE: NEWTON'S TELECOM DICTIONARY

DEFINITION: Cracker - A person who "cracks" computer and telephone systems by gaining access to passwords or by "cracking" the copy protection of computer software. SOURCE: NEWTON'S TELECOM DICTIONARY

1995

1995 Kevin Mitnick allegedly breaks in to Tsutomu Shimomura's system at the San Diego Supercomputer Center on Christmas Day 1994. Mitnick is arrested in January 1995.

1995 A French graduate student cracks a single coded portion of a Netscape commercial transaction by using the combined processing power of 120 workstations at three Paris research institutes.

1995 Two University of California computer science students break the code for another portion of Netscape security in two minutes.

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FIRST LINE of DEFENSE

Melanie Menagh

To borrow a quote from a character in a recent movie, having the right mind-set for systems security isn't "a question of whether or not you're paranoid, it's whether you're paranoid *enough*."

Steve Bellovin couldn't agree more. As co-author of *Firewalls and Internet Security: Repelling the Wily Hacker* (Addison-Wesley Publishing Co.), Bellovin says good information systems security professionals have to be able to put themselves in the mind of their foe.

"You've got to think about the problem the way an attacker

SAFE and SOUND

Skills needed	Percentage that will be hiring this year	Salary premium they are willing to pay
Security	54%	4%
Decision support	36%	3%
Data warehousing	15%	7%
Project management	12%	9%

Source: Computerworld's 1996 Skills Survey; Base: 890 IS hiring managers

DEFINITION: Logic bomb - A program routine that destroys data. For example, a logic bomb may reformat a hard disk or insert random bits in data files. It may be brought into a personal computer by downloading a corrupt public domain program. Once executed, it does its damage right away and then stops, whereas a virus keeps on destroying. SOURCE: NEWTON'S TELECOM DICTIONARY

Sources: Computer Security Institute's "Current and Future Danger: A CSI Primer on Computer Crime & Information Warfare" by Richard Power, senior analyst, National Computer Security Association; Gartner Group, Inc., Ernst & Young LLP/InformationWeek Information Security Survey; Datapro Information Services Group's Computer Security Issues, 1996 Survey; Newton's Telecom Dictionary

1995

1995 Vladimir Levin, a Russian hacker, illegally transfers more than $10 million to separate accounts around the world using a laptop PC.

1995 Boza, the first virus to target Windows 95, originates in Australia.

1996

1996 On Aug. 17, a hacker breaks in to the Justice Department's Web page and replaces the site's usual text and graphics with obscene pictures, swastikas and criticism of the Communications Decency Act.

1996 In Los Angeles, Kevin Mitnick pleads guilty to one federal charge of cellular phone fraud and admits to violating probation on an earlier computer fraud conviction.

PETER OBOLING

would. They're out to get you, and they aren't going to be playing by the rules," says Bellovin, a researcher at AT&T Bell Labs in Murray Hills, N.J.

"They're not going to be coming in through the front door, they're going to be going around your firewalls altogether. You've got to understand this and act accordingly," Bellovin says.

"Never assume something is secure because the bad guy doesn't know the details," he says. "There are a lot of different ways for security codes to leak. Someone can waltz in at 4:50 p.m. on a Friday afternoon before a long weekend and get past the guards. You want the system to be secure even if the hacker knows everything about your system."

Companies are taking Bellovin's warning seriously — so seriously that security skills are among the top skills that IS managers say they'll be hiring for this year.

The way people in the field tell it, folks with skills in firewalls, network security and cryptography can expect a very rosy future.

"The demand is incredible for a qualified person," says William Ziegler, U.S. director of technology recruiting at Andersen Consulting in New York. "It's spiraled upward heavily in the last five years. There's an urgent need for trained people. We're looking to build from within to help us deliver client value."

There's plenty of job security in IS security jobs. "Unfortunately, it's a growth industry," Bellovin says. "When I look at security problems out there, about half could be solved by cryptography; the other half are due to buggy software."

IS security wasn't always such a sure thing. Interest has tended to wax and wane.

"We used to joke about it," says John J. Davis, president of John J. Davis Associates, a retainer search practice in New York that specializes in IS management. "Some bank got ripped off by a teller in Los Angeles, and suddenly everybody was interested in security. Then it faded."

That's all changed by the realities of client/server computing and distributed platforms. "Instead of a flash in the pan, we're finding a continuum of interest," Davis says.

GET THE BASICS UNDER YOUR BELT

For those who want to secure a job in this field, IS hiring experts reiterate the need to build security savvy on top of a rock-solid foundation of understanding the basics of the specific technology in play. "You need to be a subject-matter expert," Bellovin says. "If you want to be a Web-security expert, first learn the [World Wide] Web. Learn what makes programs secure or insecure."

"Every new technology has strengths or weaknesses people will exploit," says Dennis Allen, vice president of information security at MasterCard International, Inc. in St. Louis. "Security people need to know technologies inside and out, across the board. They must have a great width and depth of knowledge."

The hot areas for security tend to be those where growing numbers of people are accessing systems — any kind of networking, database or client/server applications.

"At our shop, security issues encompass networking, internet, WAN, LAN, client/server cryptography and maintaining legacy systems," Allen says. "You have to maintain the old while you're transitioning. Don't count legacy security skills out."

SECURITY SKILL SETS

What sorts of skills are companies seeking, and how can you acquire them? Bellovin suggests a background in auditing and accounting. "The best security people tend to be good systems administrators, people who know how the system is put together and how all the pieces work and interconnect."

Ziegler says to focus on the hot technologies of the day, such as two- and three-tier architectures, Unix, Windows, Oracle Corp. products, Sybase, Inc. products, Microsoft Corp.'s Visual Basic and Powersoft Corp.'s PowerBuilder.

"You need full lifetime design product experience," Ziegler says. "Industry experience is especially important for someone in the security area."

Davis emphasizes sharp organizational and decision-making skills. "You need to be familiar with risk management. You can't cover all bases every time; you have to prioritize what needs to be secure."

Assuring compliance also is an essential aspect of the job description and one reason why many security managers report to the chief of internal auditing.

"You've got to establish parameters," Davis says. "Then put in an audit function to be certain that what's expected is being complied with."

That's easier said than done in many cases. Because of widespread resistance to security measures, one of the most important skills for an IS security manager isn't technical.

"You have to have credibility and integrity," Davis says. "Be self-assured but flexible, with a collaborative style of management. Security issues can't be rammed down people's throats."

Menagh is a freelance writer in Maple Corner, Vt.

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Software Engineer. Performs software design, development, testing and upgrade modifications of SESS telecommunication switching systems. Performs regression and laboratory testing of software to insure stability and applicability of software to specific customer telecommunication switching systems to insure quality of valid and data transmissions. Analyzes custom retrofitting of such communication switch systems including verification of new functionality using principles of Intelligent Network determine proper interface with existing functionality. Requires Master's Degree in Computer Science, Computer Information Systems or Software Engineering. Also requires and year and six months experience in the job offered, or one and half years of experience as a Systems Engineer II experience in related field, entire experience must include the system testing and analysis of SESS switching systems using principles of Intelligent Network for verification of interface functionality. Must have proof of legal authority to work permanently in the U.S. 40 hours per week, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Salary: $36.50 per hour. Please send resume to: Gordon Lin, President, Lintel Communications, Inc. 194 Shuman Blvd. Suite 200. Naperville IL 60563. No calls.

Programmer: Programs, test, debugs, develops and maintains business system data structured programs installed in an IBM mainframe computer system used for the purpose of manipulating and analyzing large statistical data sets of insurance statistics. Uses Assembler and COBOL to perform systems programming in an IBM CICS DB2 database using JCL, TSO and Panvalet for systems program testing and integration purposes. Requires B.S. degree in any Science, Engineering or Computer Science field. Education must include completion of one course in: Programming in COBOL; Programming in Assembly Language; Systems Programming; and, Statistical Computer Packages. Must have proof of legal authority to work permanently in the U.S. 40 hours per week, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Salary: $36,900.00 per year. Please send resume to: Thomas E. Geist Computer Horizons Corporation, 6400 Shafer Court, Suite 175, Rosemont, Illinois 60018. No calls.

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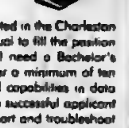
MANAGER OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS



A chemical manufacturing company located in the Charleston WV area is seeking a motivated individual to fill the position of Manager of MIS. This individual will need a Bachelor's Degree and ten plus years experience or a minimum of ten years MIS experience and demonstrated capabilities in data processing and AS400 environment. The successful applicant must have the capability to design, support and troubleshoot the manufacturing information systems to meet the needs of a growing chemical company. This is an exciting and challenging opportunity for a team-based, results oriented individual. You will need to participate in technical projects such as writing policies and procedures for the MIS Department, aid in the designing of computer programs for specified applications, assist in diagnosing and solving computer equipment problems, define equipment needs, work with management to determine information requirements of management and manage the data processing department.

The successful applicant must have skills for: technical writing, oral and written communication, problem solving, judgment, innovation and excellent interpersonal skills.

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REGIONAL SCOPE

St. Louis/Kansas City

WHERE COBOL IS KING

In St. Louis and Kansas City, year 2000 conversion projects are driving a frantic search for Cobol programmers

By Steve Alexander

A HEALTHY ECONOMY, low unemployment and year 2000 concerns have combined to make information systems hiring increasingly difficult in the St. Louis and Kansas City, Mo., region.

As a result, wages have risen 20% to 25% in the past two years and employers continue to bid for available local talent and try to recruit from outside the region. Wages are still about 10% below those of the East and West coasts. Employers note that living costs also are lower. But companies in the St. Louis/Kansas City region say their primary out-of-region recruiting grounds are the Midwest and the West rather than the coasts.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

Missouri	4.1%
National average	5.2%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, October 1996 statistics

"One of the biggest demands is for Cobol experience because there are a lot of large companies in the area that are into year 2000 conversions," says Joe Nemecek, vice president of airline information services at Trans World Airlines, Inc. (TWA) in Kansas City. "There are a lot of legacy systems to convert, such as airline reservation, banking and insurance systems, and if you've got Cobol experience, you can write your own ticket."

"It used to be that getting Cobol people was easier than finding people skilled in client/server, Unix, Internet and C++," says Allan Kalb, a systems director at brokerage firm A. G. Edwards in St. Louis. "But with everybody suddenly aware of the year 2000 problem, Cobol programmers are in high demand."

But newer skills also are hot.

"C++ programmers are most in demand," says Bill Crichton, manager of corporate staffing at SBC Communications, Inc. in St. Louis. He hires IS people for the firm's major subsidiary, Southwestern Bell Telephone Co., which has approximately 1,750 IS employees. "We're also having a lot of trouble finding Oracle programmers," he says.

"The year 2000 problem is sucking up a lot of people right now, but the other people who are in demand are object-oriented developers," says Fred Lanigan, director of information services at BJC Corp. in St. Louis. The company operates five metropolitan-area hospitals and has approximately 260 IS staffers. Lanigan says he expects to hire between 10 and 15 people this year, compared with 10 last year.

In the past 18 months, TWA has hired 27 full-time IS professionals — most of them Cobol programmers — to bring its IS workforce to 273. The airline plans to hire approximately the same number of people with the same mix of skills this year, Nemecek says.

A. G. Edwards seeks people with C++, Unix and Internet experience, as well as Cobol programmers. But because of the shortage of candidates, the company is settling for two years of experience instead of the five years it required a couple of years ago, Kalb says. He says he hopes to hire at least 50 people this year to add to the current IS staff of approximately 600.

Southwestern Bell also has aggressive hiring plans for this year. The company hired 266 IS employees last year and plans to hire 200 this year. If the recruiting is successful, about two-thirds of the hires will be C++ programmers, and most of the remainder will be Cobol mainframe programmers. There isn't much demand for managerial talent, Crichton says.

Jason Bell, placement manager for data processing at Robert Half International, Inc. in Kansas City, says there is demand for PC support and help desk people, who earn $24,000 to $30,000 per year; people with Windows NT skills, who earn $33,000 to $45,000; Visual Basic programmers, who earn $30,000 to $40,000; and Cobol and DB2 programmers, who earn $40,000 to $55,000.

RELOCATION NEEDED

Jeannie Jones, vice president of Executive Career Consultants, Inc. in St. Louis, says hiring outside the region is common. "We have huge demand, and the supply of people here is very small. We are relocating people here every day," she says. "All of our clients have to be completely open to relocating the person. If they just want us to search the local market, we generally will not take the work."

American Century Investments (formerly Twentieth Century Services, Inc.), a mutual fund management firm in Kansas City, is recruiting outside the region.

"We find mainframe programmers here, but we go outside the region for client/server developers," particularly Notes developers, says Bob Sauvageau, chief technology officer at American Century. The company has an IS staff of 350 and expects to hire 70 to 80 IS professionals this year — 10 to 15 more than last year. Among the talent it is seeking are client/server or mainframe developers, specialists in imaging systems and electronic commerce, and computer operators.

Another company that's looking outside the region for client/server talent is MasterCard International, Inc. in St. Louis, which has an IS staff of 360. MasterCard hopes to hire 60 to 70 IS professionals this year — about the same number it hired last year.

The company is looking for IS candidates ranging from recent graduates to those with four years of experience in relational databases, C programming or Unix. Approximately one-third will come from outside the region, says Rob Reeg, senior vice president of systems development at MasterCard.

Alexander is a freelance writer in Edina, Minn.

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LAN manager	$34,000	$47,000
Programmer/analyst	$36,000	$39,000

Source: Computerworld's 1996 Salary Survey

PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYERS

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Sprint Personal Communication Services™ (Sprint PCS) is taking bold strides into the 21st century as the creative force behind the evolution of wireless communications services.

Our corporate headquarters are located in Kansas City, currently ranked one of the most affordable housing markets in the country. Kansas City offers a unique blend of sophistication, friendliness, excellent school systems and cultural excitement, providing an ideal environment in which to raise a family. Due to our rapid growth and expansion, we have multiple openings available with significant areas of responsibility in our Kansas City corporate headquarters. Immediate opportunities include, but are not limited to, the following:

DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CLIENT SERVICES

Provides Information Technology support to the Sprint PCS "Customer Care" organization, acting as its "CIO" to facilitate development of business systems requirements and functional specifications. Must have 7-10 years experience managing software development projects using a formal development methodology, with a working knowledge of Call Center business processes and operations. MBA is highly desirable.

IT MANAGER - PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Represents IT on cross-functional teams dedicated to specific product initiatives including roaming, pre-paid billing, wireless data, handset provisioning and privacy, fraud management, voicemail, paging, short message service, Internet applications, calling areas, invoicing or call feature enhancements, and in-building systems. Requires 6-10+ years process knowledge, telecom/wireless experience and large project management including matrix management experience.

DIRECTOR - APPLICATIONS DELIVERY

Directs the planning, scheduling, delivery and integration of off-the-shelf or vendor-developed application systems. Background should include an in-depth knowledge of a Client/Server software development methodology (preferably METHOD/1 and DESIGN/1), familiarity with the communications industry, and strong communications and presentation skills. A minimum of 10 years IT experience and 5+ years managing software development projects required.

SYSTEMS ANALYST - INTERNET DESIGN

Designs complex Internet systems expansion and development projects by researching, designing and developing integrated plans for new systems and/or major expansions. Requires a working knowledge of HTML, JAVA, IIS, Netscape Enterprises, Intranet Explorer, ActiveX, CGI, Shockwave, RealAudio, DNS servers and proxy servers.

QUALITY ASSURANCE ANALYST

Researches and implements IT and software engineering standards and benchmarks IEEE, SEI/CMM, Bellcore, Trillium and TickIT, in addition to assisting process managers in process measurement. Requires 3-7+ years experience in the following: business systems analysis; business process engineering; Client/Server technologies and architecture; and IT organization and metrics.

DATA ARCHITECT - DATA WAREHOUSE

These positions are at a Sr. Systems Analyst level, and will work closely with clients. Activities will include data warehouse and data modeling in an Oracle database environment.

ORACLE DBA - OLAP/EXPRESS

Oracle technician with OLAP and/or Oracle Express, and one or more years solid Oracle tools experience preferred.

ORACLE DBA

This position will deal with the largest, multi-platform, interdependent databases supporting the Company's information systems. Works with internal IT resources, influencing technical decisions and direction. Requires 5+ years Oracle DBA experience.

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KAPSTONE

Kapstone Systems, Inc., based in Kansas City, Missouri, is a leading provider of data warehousing and decision support solutions for the property/casualty insurance industry. Kapstone Systems offers substantial opportunities to motivated individuals that would like to be a part of the foundation group in a fast growing company. Some travel will be required. The following positions are available:

Database Administrator - Significant experience administrating DB2, Informix, Oracle, or SQL Server databases including database design, tuning, and performance monitoring. UNIX experience helpful. Requires the ability to administer and oversee multiple database platforms at client sites simultaneously.

Data Analyst - Experience with logical and physical modeling of data, star schemas, and dataman design. S-Designer experience beneficial.

Programmer/Analyst and Senior Programmer/Analyst - Significant experience writing COBOL or C++. Experience writing SQL and working with Microfocus COBOL.

Project Manager - Experience in coordinating the efforts required to build data warehouses, datamarts, and metadata for multiple clients. The position requires the ability to effectively manage several projects simultaneously.

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Attn: Human Resources
Kapstone Systems, Inc.
9301 State Line Road
Kansas City, MO 64114

Fax:
1-800 208-7075
E-mail:
marketing@kapstone.com
Web Site:
http://www.kapstone.com

APPLICATION SYSTEMS ANALYST PROGRAMMER (LEAD)

Provide technical leadership for the maintenance and enhancement of DBS E-Series Financial Applications: approve/quality assure all software changes, provide technical direction to call clients, allocate and track work assigned to other programming staff. This position will also provide technical direction on financial system replacement decisions and implementation. Requires Bachelors Degree in Computer Science or related field, or equivalent work experience. Prefer 8 + years experience with financial system conversions and client/server tools.

APPLICATION SYSTEM ANALYST PROGRAMMER

Candidates should have 5 years experience in UNIX, C, Operating system programming interface experience connecting multi vendor environment. A Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science is preferred.

DATABASE ANALYST PROGRAMMER

Seeking an experienced Sybase and Oracle DBA. Candidates should have a minimum of 3-5 years experience developing client server applications utilizing Sybase or Oracle Database Servers. Skills should include logical database design, SQL, and UNIX. A Bachelor's degree in Computer Science is preferred.

SENIOR NETWORK ANALYST

•Server Systems Manager

This position provides system management functions for servers, coordinates and performs the installation and on-going maintenance of network servers, devices and implements server management/performance and back-up protection strategies and disaster planning polices, and monitors back-up processes and verifies integrity of media and data. Candidates should have ONE or 3 plus years of experience in Novell server installation and management with at least 1 year of supporting Novell 4.x servers and a strong background in Intel-based hardware support and familiar with server backup methodologies, RAID technology and general familiarity with supporting Novell 4.x server equipment and OS.

BUSINESS SYSTEMS ANALYST - SENIOR

This position formulates/defines business and clinical system's scope and objectives, analyzes solutions to solve complex problems considering computer equipment. Candidates are required to have 2 years experience and a Bachelor's Degree in a related field, or equivalent work experience. Management Engineering experience is preferred. Homecare, DME, and physician office knowledge helpful.

COMPUTER TECHNICIAN

Candidates should have experience in PC/LAN hardware, Windows 95, Windows for Workgroups, MS Office, and desktop applications. Experience with Novell 4.1, communication protocols, and Ethernet is preferred. Candidates should have a Bachelor's Degree, 1 year technical school, or equivalent experience.

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Programmer/Analyst - Analyze needs; evaluate proposed & existing systems; write progs & code; enhance & customize software; test, debug, prov. tech. support; use: SAP-RF, SAP-RF, SAP R/2, Bache/Comp. or Applics or Engy or Math. 2yrs/exp. in job offered. Must be willing to travel & relocate as needed (reimb. by empl.) 40hrs/wk.; ($-$) $40,000/yr. Greensboro, NC. Apply to the nearest Job Service office or submit a resume to: Job Service, 2009B S. Elm-Eugene St., Greensboro, NC 27406. All resumes must incl.: applicant's Social Security #; & Job Order #NC4083059 & DOT code 030.162-014.

Programmer/Analyst - Analyze needs; enhance & modify modules to human resources mgmt system; write specs & code; implement; use: Peoplesoft 4.0, Gupta SQL Quest, UNIX System V & Oracle 7.0 Bache/Comp Sci or Engy or Math 2yrs/exp. in job offered. Will acc 2yrs/exp. as Prog/Anal in lieu of education; Exp. job offered or related occ must incl. 6mos using PeopleSoft 4-0, Gupta SQL Quest, UNIX System V & Oracle 7.0. 40hrs/wk; ($-$) $60,000/yr. At client sites, majority in NC, balance elsewhere. Apply to the nearest Job Service office or submit a resume to: Job Service, 2009B S. Elm-Eugene St., Greensboro, NC 27406. All resumes must incl. applicant's Social Security #; & Job Order #NC4083059 & DOT code 030.162-014.

Software Engineer Design, code, test and implement software packages using C, SYBASE, DB-Library. Develop prototypes/ systems using Object Oriented methodology; C++, and ORACLE. Convert systems from SYBASE, DB-Library environments to ORACLE, PRO-C environments. Prepare and make presentations, do product demonstrations of software systems to clients. Bachelor of Science degree required in Mgmt., Info. Systems or Computer Science plus 3 years of experience in the job duties described above. Salary: $63,000/year for a 40 hour work week. Apply at the Texas Workforce Commission,FT Worth TX or send resume to the Texas Workforce Commission, 1117 Trinity Room 424T, Austin, TX 78701. JO# TX7858225 Ad paid by an Equal Opportunity Employer

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Consultant Design develop, implement & test software applications for management information systems in client/server environment. Database design including data modeling. Tools: AS/400; S38; RPG/400; CL/400; COBOL/ 400; SQL/400; QUERY/400; PC/Support/400. B.S. in Computer Science as well as 2 yrs exp. in job offered or as Programmer or Programmer/Analyst required. Previous exp. must include AS/400; RPG/400. 40 hrs/wk, 8am-5pm, $45,000/yr. Must have proof of legal authority to work permanently in the U.S. Send resume to: Cathy Sutton-HR, Whitman-Hart, Inc., 311 S. Wacker Drive, Ste 3900, Chicago, IL 60606. REF #2597. (312) 922-9200.

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Qualified candidates will have experience with:

- Client/Server Technology • TCP/IP • UNIX based Mfg. Software & automation •
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Programmer/Analyst Responsible for the design and development of financial and manufacturing system software for company's business clients. Must have experience in design, development and implementation of application software as well as experience in MRP II (MANMAN) AP and OMAR modules utilizing ASK Powerhouse and Fortran languages. Bachelors Degree in Engineering, Computer Science or Business or equivalent required. Must have three years experience in job offered. High mobility preferred. 40 hrs/wk, 8 a.m - 5 p.m., $60,000/yr. Qualified applicants should report/submit resume to Mr. James McCoy, Manager, Office of Employment Security, 8206 Broad Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15306. Reference Job Order #2009617.

Senior Systems Analyst (Cedar Rapids, IA; Pittsburgh, PA, & other client sites) Consult w/clients, design, develop, implement, & maintain clients current & proposed systems; define business needs, functional requirements; analyze & develop systems design; identify, analyze, & resolve problems w/operational systems; interact w/users management. Environment: IBM PCs & AIX Workstation in LAN environment; C, X Windows; Shell Scripts; PL/SQL; MS Windows. BS in Comp. Sci. or Math or Engg + 5 years exp in job offered or as Programmer/Analyst. Employer will accept a master's degree in stated fields of study + 2 years exp in job offered or as Programmer/Analyst. $57K/yr; 40 hrs/wk, 8-5. Must have proof of legal authority to work in the USA. Send resume to PA Job Center; Ref: Job Order # 1009707; Attn: Mr. Greg Schweng, Mgr., Office of Employment Security, 2100 Wharton Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203.

Consultant. Design, develop, implement & test software applications for management information systems. Database design including data modeling Oracle performance tuning & database administration. Tools: PowerBuilder, Oracle; SQL. B.S. in Computer Science as well as 1 yr exp. in job offered or as Systems Consultant required. Previous exp. must include: PowerBuilder; Oracle (SQL, performance tuning & database administration). 40 hrs/wk, 8am-5pm, $53,000/yr. Must have proof of legal authority to work permanently in the U.S. Send resume to Cathy Sutton-HR Whitman-Hart, Inc., 311 S. Wacker Drive, Ste. 3500, Chicago, IL 60606. REF #21027 (312) 922-9300.

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- **Business Analysts**
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- Life Insurance, property and casualty insurance or banking knowledge preferred
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You must also demonstrate proven skills in analysis, design and writing. Excellent communications ability a must. Opportunities for foreign/domestic travel may exist.

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2323 Bryan Street, Suite 1100, Dallas, TX 75201. Fax: (214) 978-7776.

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PROGRAMMER ANALYST & SR. PROGRAMMER ANALYST

You will participate in a team of technical professionals to solve a variety of computer application problems ranging from moderately complex to very complex. Performs analysis and/or programming tasks as required to develop new applications or modify existing ones using mainly COBOL or other high-level languages. 1-3 years experience is required. Proficient analytical skills and technical knowledge a must, along with a college degree in Computer Science.

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Consultant, Systems Analyst. Consult with client companies of their site to determine needs. Design, develop, adapt, install & debug computer systems (hardware &/or software) as per needs of clients. Analyze & assist in implementation of new systems & troubleshoot any problems. Develop new system specifications, flow charts, manuals, & train clients' employees in use of systems. May use hardware, languages & tools such as: IBM 3090; MVS/XA; TSO; DB2; VS COBOL II; CICS; JCL & QMF. 40 hour wk, 9am-5pm. Salary: $51,600/yr. Requires Bachelor degree in Comp Sci or Comp Eng, & 2 yrs experience in job offered or 2 yrs experience as Programmer/Analyst. Other special requirements: Experience to include use of hardware, languages & tools listed above. Must have proof of legal authority to work permanently in U.S. Send cover letter referencing #MB1 & resume to: Michelle Beaumont, Interim Technology, Inc., 623 Commerce Drive, Oak Brook, IL 60521-9335.

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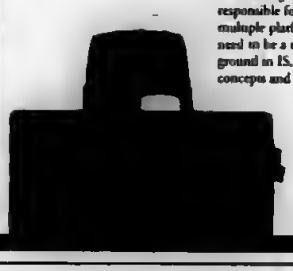

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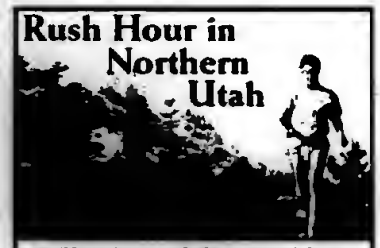

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By Suruchi Mohan

COLOR OVERSHADOWS BLACK AND WHITE

COLOR IS THE LATEST EXCITEMENT in the mature world of personal desktop printers. And leading the charge is the ink-jet printer, which works well in the personal desktop space.

While personal and network printers can be considered desktop machines, the kind of performance that makes a desktop printer "personal" varies depending on which analyst you ask. Typically, any printer that produces less than 8 to 12 page/min. is a good bet in the monochrome (black and white) ink-jet arena. The average range for color ink-jet printing is 1.5 to 3 page/min.

Some personal desktop laser printers may produce as many as 24 page/min., says Bill Gott, president of Ventura Market Strategies in San Jose, Calif.

When laser printers produce more than 30 page/min., they don't classify as personal printers. But there is an overlap, and printer speeds of more than 12 page/min. work for networks, analysts say.

"Color is becoming mainstream," says Ed Pullen, director of printer market research at Computer Intelligence in La Jolla, Calif. Sales of color ink-jet printers surged last year. "There is a story behind the numbers. PC users are embracing color printing for business, pleasure and other applications," he says. The color quality is outstanding, and a lot of users are in replacement mode. They are swapping their old dot matrix printers for color ink-jet printers.

Lyra Research in Newtonville, Mass., predicts the market for four-color business printers that cost less than $500 will increase from 662,200 units sold in 1996 to about 2.3 million units sold by 2000.

Ink-jet printers — monochrome or color — are the most popular, according to Keith Waryas, an analyst at International Data Corp. in Framingham, Mass. Monochrome and color ink-jet printers represent about 71% of the printer market. The color ink-jet printer has taken over the monochrome market because of its low price, speed and performance.

Hewlett-Packard Co. leads the color ink-jet market with an estimated 55% share of the market, according to IDC. The company's latest personal desktop printer is the DeskJet 870C family, which features both black-and-white and color printing. It also works on peer-to-peer networks. It can print up to 8 page/min. in monochrome and 4 page/min. in color. Prices start at $499.

Canon Computer Systems, Inc. and Epson America, Inc. rank second and third in the color ink-jet market, with 25% and 9% of the market respectively. Canon's BJC-4550, which costs $499, prints 5 page/min. in black and white and 1 page/min. in color. Epson's Stylus Color 500 prints in black and white and color. Its speed is 4 page/min., and it costs $289.

But the enthusiasm for color doesn't mean black-and-white printers are obsolete. HP's LaserJet 6 Series printers, which consist of the LaserJet 6P and the 6MP, are a case in point. Announced in the fourth quarter last year, they are expected to cost less than $900 and offer speeds of up to 8 page/min. NEC Technologies, Inc. shipped the SuperScript 869 laser printer last year for just under $500, and Xerox Corp.'s 4508 Personal Laser Printer costs less than $800.

Laser printers come in color, too. But their high price — typically above $4,000 — makes them better-suited to networking environments in which several users can share the technology.

Next week's Marketplace will explore network printers.

Mohan is a freelance writer in Mountain View, Calif.

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Several companies in the large systems sector of Computerworld's Stock Ticker are hinging much of their profits on their services offerings.

Forget hardware — companies such as Amdahl Corp. (NYSE:AMH) and Digital Equipment Corp. (NYSE:DEC) already rely on services for at least half their earnings, based on recent results. And even IBM's (NYSE:IBM) services business makes up 30% of total earnings.

In fact, IBM hired 15,000 service personnel last year and will hire another 15,000 this year. John Jones, an analyst at Salomon Brothers, Inc. in San Francisco, predicts that IBM's services business will earn $22 billion in 1998 and that it will make up 25% of all IBM revenue.

Jones said his buy rating on IBM shares is based mostly on IBM's nonhardware business.

And at the recent Lotusphere conference in Orlando, Fla., IBM Chairman Louis V. Gerstner hinted at even more service investment in IBM's subsidiary Lotus Development Corp. It seems users are suffering through poor Lotus support, and the Cambridge, Mass., firm is looking to IBM's experience to help it out.

Amdahl shares haven't seen the same interest from investors. Amdahl's restructuring of the company to be more service-oriented caused its recent lukewarm financial results, said officials at the Sunnyvale, Calif., firm.

But the services changes continue. Amdahl's DMR Consulting Group subsidiary last month bought Quadrant International Pty. Ltd., a systems integrator for offices. Montreal-based DMR has also started a year 2000 consulting business.

In a reversal to the services trend, hardware is going strong for Data General Corp. (NYSE:DGN). The company once leaned on services for much of its revenue, but recently almost 90% of its gains were due to its Clariion and Aviion product lines. Shares in the Westboro, Mass., firm have doubled in value from about $9 last year to about $18 today.

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XIRC	31.13	9.63	Xircom	23.88	0.88	2.3
XYLN	78.00	30.25	Xylan Corp (L)	30.75	-8.00	-22.4
AALR	13.25	6.13	Advanced Logic Research	10.13	-0.75	-6.9
AAPL	30.25	15.13	Apple Computer Inc. (L)	26.88	-0.88	-3.2
ASTA	8.88	3.94	AST Research Inc.	4.75	-0.25	-5.0
CPQ	61.50	35.88	Compaq Computer Corp (H)	51.25	-5.88	-8.8
DELL	72.38	19.75	Dell Computer Corp	64.88	-2.38	-3.5
CAIN	86.25	23.38	Gateway 2000 Inc.	59.13	-2.13	-3.5
HWP	37.75	27.75	Hewlett Packard Co.	31.50	-2.38	-4.6
MUEI	21.88	8.75	Micron Intertainment Inc.	10.88	-1.88	-8.8
NIPNY	65.00	36.50	NEC America	38.38	-2.75	-6.8
SGI	88.38	17.88	Silicon Graphics	45.88	-2.00	-7.2
SUNW	95.13	28.38	Sun Microsystems Inc.	53.81	2.38	4.9
AMH	14.00	7.56	Amdahl Corp	10.88	-0.75	-6.5
BGN	18.13	8.00	Data General Corp	10.88	-0.75	-6.8
DEC	36.00	28.38	Digital Equipment Corp	30.13	-2.88	-7.8
IBM	170.13	38.13	IBM	147.38	-10.88	-6.8
MDCO	20.25	8.88	Meridian Data Inc.	4.63	-2.00	-30.2
NETP	6.13	2.25	NetFrame	3.06	-0.44	-14.0
SQNT	20.13	10.13	Sequent Computer Sys.	17.88	0.13	0.1
SEQS	5.13	1.88	Sequoia Systems Inc.	2.06	0.19	10.2
SMA	12.88	11.88	Stratus Computer Inc (H)	12.75	1.38	4.4
TDM	15.25	8.88	Tandem Computers Inc.	10.88	-0.88	-4.5
UIS	6.13	3.88	Unisys Corp.	4.75	-0.19	-3.8
ADBE	49.13	28.38	Adobe Systems Inc.	36.25	-1.25	-3.3
AMSWA	7.81	3.63	American Software Inc.	7.38	0.88	13.5
APLX	62.50	33.88	Aplix Inc	25.88	-4.38	-13.7
ARSW	82.75	21.88	Arbor Software	27.88	-0.38	-1.3
ADSK	44.25	34.88	Autodesk Inc	36.88	-1.13	-3.0
BCJS	31.75	10.88	BCJ Systems Inc	27.75	-1.75	-5.9
BMCS	51.88	25.50	BMC Software Inc.	38.50	1.88	5.1
BOOL	27.56	14.88	Books and Bytes (H)	27.88	2.38	9.4
BORL	51.25	4.75	Borland Int'l Inc.	6.44	0.06	1.0
BOBJY	30.88	8.63	Business Objects	12.88	3.25	33.7
CAYN	11.88	5.81	Captaris Software Inc.	7.25	-0.13	-2.7
CNTR	6.75	2.63	Centura Software	4.44	-0.44	-8.8
CGNF	39.50	13.88	Cognos Inc.	36.88	3.25	10.9
CA	67.88	37.38	Computer Associates	47.88	1.38	3.5
CVN	13.75	5.75	Computervision Corp	7.13	-0.88	-5.0
CPWR	69.25	18.88	Compuware Corp (H)	38.13	-3.88	-8.8
CSRE	32.00	10.75	Corsair Inc.	14.88	0.88	0.0
COSFF	13.88	3.88	Cosmi Corp (L)	3.88	0.13	3.9
DMYI	9.25	2.63	Dataware Technologies Inc.	3.75	0.63	12.2
FILE	67.00	18.38	Filenet Corp	28.75	1.88	9.0
FSYS	82.75	28.75	Fourth Software	33.06	-3.38	-8.8
FTPS	15.88	6.88	FTP Software Inc.	7.88	-0.75	-9.2
HUMCF	69.63	23.88	Hummingbird Comm. Ltd.	31.25	1.38	4.2
HYSW	36.88	8.75	Hyperion Software Corp	22.63	-1.38	-5.7
IIRC	13.88	11.88	Information Resources	15.38	-0.38	-2.4
IFMX	36.75	11.88	Informix Corp	28.75	-1.88	-7.3
INGR	28.38	7.75	Intergraph Corp (L)	8.88	-0.13	1.5
LEAF	10.25	1.81	Interleaf Inc	8.88	-0.31	-13.5
ISLI	13.88	7.50	Intersolv Inc.	8.88	-0.25	-4.8
INTU	69.50	25.38	Intuit Inc. (L)	27.13	-2.88	-6.9
SLC	30.31	20.88	Learning Co. (The) (L)	20.88	-2.25	17.5
LGWK	22.25	3.25	Logic Works	7.13	-0.88	30.9
MAPS	10.88	7.88	Mapinfo Corp	9.88	0.88	5.9
MATH	3.25	1.75	MathSoft	4.19	0.88	4.7
MCAF	33.00	20.38	McAfee Associates	30.25	-1.75	-5.5
MENT	13.88	7.88	Mentor Graphics	9.88	-0.88	-8.8
MFGY	21.25	3.88	Mfgs Focus	16.88	-0.88	-5.7
MCKI	18.63	4.75	Micromeric Inc.	4.75	-0.25	0.0
MSFT	103.88	48.38	Microsoft Corp (H)	88.63	1.88	-3.6
ORCL	31.88	20.50	Oracle Corp	28.88	-0.25	-0.6
PMTC	64.25	31.50	Parametric Technology	57.88	0.88	0.0
PARQ	14.88	1.63	ParcPlace Systems Inc. (L)	1.75	-0.25	-12.5
PSFT	86.75	23.38	Peoplesoft	68.88	-7.13	-9.0
PTEC	40.88	12.50	Phoenix Technologies	13.25	0.88	3.2
PSQL	13.75	3.13	Platinum Software	20.88	-0.88	-5.9
PLAT	18.75	9.25	Platinum Technology	13.88	-2.38	-6.2
PRGS	29.50	12.13	Progress Software Corp	17.88	-0.13	-0.7
RNBO	24.25	14.88	Rainbow Technologies Inc.	18.13	-2.38	-1.4
RBBO	61.88	17.17	Red Brick Systems Inc.	39.88	-0.88	-2.7
SAPE	38.25	20.88	Sapient Corp.	40.63	-0.75	-1.8
SCOC	9.13	5.00	SCO Inc.	7.19	-0.63	-8.1
SDTI	54.88	18.88	Security Dynamics Tech.	31.25	3.88	10.1
SQAK	28.75	17.88	SQA Inc.	23.63	4.25	21.9
SQTA	14.75	9.88	Sense of the Age	12.81	-0.94	-6.8
STBY	30.88	27.25	Standby Software Inc. (L)	27.75	1.06	4.1
SDRC	37.88	18.88	Structr Dynamics Research	25.38	0.88	0.0
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SYMC	18.38	5.75	Symantec Corp.	16.50	0.38	2.8
SNPS	50.50	29.88	Synopsys	30.88	-4.88	-6.9
SSAE	28.75	8.88	System Software Assoc.	10.13	0.88	0.0
SYSV	30.88	5.38	Systemsoft Corp	10.13	-0.75	-5.6
TRUV	8.88	2.44	Truevision Corp.	3.88	-0.88	-16.8
VIEW	17.88	8.38	ViewLogic Systems	10.81	0.19	1.8
VMRK	17.88	3.50	Vmark Software Inc.	8.88	0.13	1.5
WALK	12.88	6.38	Walker Interactive Systems	12.75	-0.06	-4.8
WALL	27.00	12.25	Wall Data Inc.	17.38	-2.25	-11.7
WANG	28.13	19.88	Wang Laboratories Inc.	23.25	-1.88	-4.1
AOL	71.88	22.88	America On-Line	36.88	4.75	4.6
BBN	28.75	15.88	BBN Corp	23.25	-0.75	-3.1
CSRV	30.88	6.88	Computer Serv Corp.	25.88	-0.25	-2.3
EDPY	28.75	17.88	Edify Corp (L)	13.88	1.88	10.1
LCOS	29.25	9.75	Lycos Inc.	26.88	1.75	10.6
NETC	44.38	10.25	Netcom On-Line	12.63	-0.13	-0.8
NSCP	75.38	54.88	Netscape Comm Corp	59.88	-1.25	-2.1
ONMT	63.25	31.88	Open Market Inc.	13.13	-2.13	-13.9
PSIX	18.88	9.75	PSINet	10.88	0.88	7.9
QDEK	30.88	3.94	Quarterdeck Corp	4.50	-0.88	-13.5
RAPT	35.25	12.75	Raptor Systems	25.88	-1.13	-5.9
SCUR	38.25	9.88	Security Computing Corp.	7.38	0.13	1.7
SPYG	36.88	30.88	Spyglass Inc.	31.75	-0.75	-4.8
YHOO	48.38	15.88	Yahoo! Inc.	30.63	9.88	47.2
AMD	28.13	10.25	Advanced Micro Devices (H)	24.25	1.13	4.2
ADI	30.25	17.75	Analog Devices Inc. (H)	27.88	-1.88	-6.3
CHPS	26.50	8.13	Chips and Technologies	13.25	-0.63	-4.5
CRUS	27.25	17.63	Cirrus Logic	23.75	0.88	3.8
CY	16.88	9.13	Cypress Semiconductor Corp	12.13	-0.50	-4.0
CYRX	36.50	11.88	Cyrix	25.88	-0.63	-2.4
INTC	165.88	51.88	Intel Corp (H)	155.13	-8.25	-5.0
LSI	36.50	17.88	LSI Logic Corp	33.75	-1.88	-5.6
LSCC	53.88	30.75	Lattice Semiconductor	50.88	-2.00	-3.8
MCRL	80.88	12.88	Micrel Semiconductor Inc.	38.13	-1.88	-4.9
MU	68.38	36.63	Micron Technology	38.75	-1.75	-4.3
MOT	88.75	44.13	Motorola Inc.	58.75	-2.25	-3.7
NSM	27.75	13.88	National Semiconductor (H)	24.88	-3.25	-11.6
TXN	80.38	88.38	Texas Instruments (H)	98.00	0.00	0.0
VLSI	35.63	20.38	VLSI Technology	26.63	0.06	0.0
XLNX	48.38	28.88	Xilinx	43.75	0.00	0.0
ZLG	28.38	14.88	Zilog Inc	24.63	-2.38	-3.5
APCC	31.38	8.88	American Power Conversion	28.88	1.56	5.8
ADPT	48.38	20.88	Adaptec Inc.	30.88	-0.38	-0.1
CBEX	7.88	1.31	Cabletron Corp (L)	1.31	-0.31	-19.2
CREAF	35.13	3.88	Creative Technology Ltd. (H)	12.50	1.25	10.1
DACE	24.50	3.75	Data Race Inc.	20.88	-0.63	-2.3
DTN	12.50	4.13	Datatec Corp (H)	10.25	-0.88	-7.9
EMC	30.88	16.50	EMC Corp	23.88	-0.75	-2.9
EMLX	21.88	9.88	Emulex Corp	13.63	-0.38	-12.6
ESCC	31.88	20.88	Evans and Sutherland	20.38	-1.38	-7.3
EXBT	22.75	9.38	Exabyte	11.75	1.88	9.1
IINF	4.13	1.38	Intelligent Info Systems	2.88	-0.88	-3.0
IOMI	28.13	6.88	Iomega Corp	17.88	-0.38	-2.3
IPLS	8.06	1.88	IPL Systems Inc.	3.88	0.88	5.2
KMAG	23.88	22.88	Komag Inc.	28.88	1.38	-2.3
MTSI	28.75	12.88	Micro Linear Systems Inc.	20.88	1.75	11.8
PSAK	27.88	18.13	Peak Technology Group	21.75	0.88	4.4
PMCL	14.19	3.38	Pinnacle Micro Inc.	4.88	-0.25	-4.9
AQM	4.75	3.75	QMS Inc.	3.63	0.00	0.0
QNTM	41.88	36.88	Quantum Corp (H)	40.44	1.94	9.6
RDUS	4.88	0.34	Radius Inc.	0.88	-0.06	-14.2
SEG	52.50	18.75	Seagate Technology (H)	48.38	-2.38	-4.8
STK	54.38	34.50	Storage Technology	40.63	-2.38	-4.8
STLC	8.75	9.88	Sterling Inc Corp	8.88	-0.06	-6.8
TEK	52.25	28.75	Tektronix Inc.	49.88	-0.63	-1.3
WDC	25.88	17.13	Western Digital Corp	20.88	0.63	3.0
XRIT	81.13	40.88	Xircom Corp	56.38	-2.38	-4.0
AMSY	37.13	20.88	American Mgmt Systems	31.75	-2.38	1.7
AMLY	30.38	14.88	Analysts Int'l	26.38	-0.63	-2.3
AUD	41.75	15.88	Auto Data Processing	41.38	-0.25	-0.6
BDMI	61.38	30.88	BDM International Inc.	46.25	-7.75	14.4
CATP	37.25	14.38	Cambridge Tech. Partners	29.75	0.25	0.8
CBIX	54.38	32.38	Cambrian Corp	36.75	-0.75	-2.0
CDO	30.88	20.88	Comdisco Inc.	30.88	-0.38	-1.2
CMRO	54.88	25.88	Computer Horizons	32.63	0.38	1.2
CSC	80.88	64.13	Computer Sciences	67.88	-4.25	-5.9
TSK	47.50	17.88	Computer Task Group	40.38	0.88	1.4
CPU	30.88	8.25	CompUSA Inc.	19.63	-2.13	-8.4
CDMT	28.63	12.75	Compton's Data Systems Inc.	15.88	-1.75	-8.6
EDGS	11.88	4.38	Edgmark Discount Software	8.88	-1.06	-10.5
EDS	63.88	40.75	Electronic Data Systems Corp.	47.88	1.88	3.5
IMAC	20.63	16.88	Imacon Corp	16.88	0.00	0.0
INEL	11.88	3.38	Intelligent Electronics	4.31	0.00	0.0
REA	34.88	11.38	Reuters Inc	13.88	0.75	2.4
MICA	19.50	9.88	Micronics Inc.	12.88	-2.88	-13.3
PAYX	30.88	24.88	Paychex	28.75	2.00	4.3
PRES	55.50	33.13	Policy Management Sys.	45.38	3.25	7.8
REY	29.25	18.75	Reynolds and Reynolds	29.25	3.25	2.8
SCBI	30.88	14.44	SCB Computer Tech. Inc.	18.88	0.00	1.0
SEIC	26.38	13.75	SEI Corp	21.88	1.00	4.9
SIMED	72.13	48.25	Shared Medical Systems	66.75	-0.88	1.0
SSPE	68.50	36.88	Software Spectrum Inc.	53.88	-2.38	-2.7
VSYS	88.75	8.38	VanSoar Corp	13.88	1.00	0.0
SNDT	28.88	21.88	Standard Data Systems	28.88	-0.88	-4.8

KEY: (H) = New annual high reached in period (L) = New annual low reached in period

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IRS mulls outsourcing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

candor about the extent of its computer problems in a congressional hearing two weeks ago.

"This is the first time we've gotten a clear indication from the IRS as to the extent of [its] problem," said U.S. Rep. Robert Portman (R-Ohio), co-chairman of the National Commission on Restructuring the IRS. It is also the first time the agency has floated an outsourcing proposal.

TIME CRUNCH

Despite the approach of 2000, the more controversial part of the IRS technology plan — which was devised in accordance with a congressional mandate issued last year — is the required outsourcing study. The IRS expects it will take a year just to issue a preliminary request for information and evaluate the responses.

Even if the agency launched an outsourcing study tomorrow, IRS officials said, substantial work by private contractors couldn't begin before 2001. And that plan would have to include safeguards to appease critics who are wary of supplying personal tax data to nongovernment workers.

"This is the first time we've gotten a clear indication from the IRS as to the extent of [its] problem." – U.S. Rep. Robert Portman (R-Ohio)

The agency's first priorities are to find a quicker, interim solution to deal with its data-input and remittance-processing systems and address year 2000 compliance. The goal is to have a pilot program operating by year's end and fully implemented by December 1998 — well before 2000.

The IRS envisions implementing a system of networked PCs connected to dual file servers for manual data entry of paper tax forms. The system would cost $114 million for a 10-year useful life. If data entry is outsourced, those PCs could be used for customer service, according to an IRS report titled "Study of the Feasibility of Outsourcing Submissions Processing," which was sent to Congress last month.

The move to investigate outsourcing follows years of criticism from Congress, the General Accounting Office and others that the IRS has squandered hundreds of millions of dollars trying to upgrade its technology.

"I am certain there are millions of dollars that can be saved. Why they never did this before is beyond my mortal comprehension," said Linda Cohen, a research director at Gartner Group, Inc. in Stamford, Conn.

During recent hearings of the National Commission on Restructuring the IRS, agency Chief Information Officer Arthur Gross acknowledged technology failings at the IRS and questioned if the agency had the expertise to develop a full modernization system in-house.

IRS OUTSOURCING PLAN

Pros:

- Potential to improve speed and accuracy of data input
- Faster access to new technologies
- Capital costs shift to private sector

Cons:

- Concern over confidentiality of tax returns
- Need to monitor outsourcers' work
- Project is massive and complex

It's a big job: Can IRS CIO handle it?

Is it possible that private contractors could successfully handle such a massive, complex and sensitive project as the data entry for 200 million federal tax returns worth $1.4 trillion?

That's the proposal on the table at the IRS. Detractors note the IRS' dismal record in purchasing, developing and managing technology thus far. But supporters point not only to successful private-sector outsourcing, but also to the most likely tool for any such effort within the IRS: CIO Arthur Gross.

Gross oversaw the launch of a smaller project at the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance before joining the IRS last March.

"I think he's doing a tremendous job," said Rep. Robert Portman (R-Ohio), co-chairman of the National Commission on Restructuring the IRS and a strong critic of previous IRS technology spending.

Under Gross, New York projected it would save $35 million through a 10-year outsourcing deal with First Financial Group for tax-return data entry. That project, 2 years old, is being phased in over time, so return-on-investment figures aren't yet available.

The big question is whether the technology-plagued IRS can properly manage a massive outsourcing proposal. A simpler $17 million OCR/file electronic-filing project is "an example of a small acquisition they did horribly," said Dana Stillman, chief scientist of computers and telecommunications at the General Accounting Office. "They're going to need disciplined, controlled acquisition practices."

Also possible is a political firestorm over sending taxpayers' sensitive financial information to outside workers.

"It's not a very good idea," said Marc Rotenberg, director of the Electronic Privacy Information Center in Washington. He said he doubts a contract designed to save money will apply the necessary diligence to ensure data privacy.

Outsourcing proponents argue that Americans are already dealing with having sensitive financial data handled by outsourcing firms. For example, the processing of credit-card bills is done by third parties, not American Express Co. or Visa International, Inc. They also note that the government already trusts outside companies with critical national security issues.

— Sharon Machlis

"They don't have much in the way of technical knowledge within IRS, which is why they're in so much trouble," said Robert Clagett, a former AT&T Corp. executive who chaired a National Research Council Committee to Review the Tax Systems Modernization of the IRS. "I am very concerned about how they [will be] able to manage an outsider doing the job."

WISH LIST

The IRS proposal would encourage the use of imaging and intelligent character recognition by outsourcers, but such technology wouldn't be required.

Private contractors would be asked to devise systems that could handle electronic filings — which now represent just 13% of all tax returns processed — magnetic media and other methods. The IRS processes more than 200 million returns and collects $1.4 trillion in tax revenue.

Agency critics said the IRS hasn't adequately promoted electronic filings, which would cut processing costs and errors. Taxpayers must now pay extra to file electronically even though it is easier and less expensive for the IRS to handle such data.

"The IRS should pay the taxpayer to file electronically," said Neil Stillman, deputy CIO at the Department of Health and Human Services. "It sounds like they're trying to outsource something they have yet to re-engineer."

Entering tax-return data is "one of the things they're good at," Clagett said. "It's such a complete white flag on giving up on the one thing that they can do; I am disappointed."

Proponents of outsourcing said it would give the government quicker access to new technologies because private firms have greater flexibility in making capital investments.

AT&T offers on-demand bandwidth

By Kim Girard
WASHINGTON

AT&T CORP. last week offered the industry's first switched virtual circuits (SVC) for Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) networks, enabling users to expand bandwidth on demand.

SVCs for ATM, announced last week at ComNet here, are available now at speeds as fast as T3 (45M bit/sec.). SVCs enable network administrators to set up temporary links to any user on the network. Unlike permanent virtual circuits (PVC), which are full-time connections, SVCs offer on-demand bandwidth with usage-based pricing.

"[SVCs] are clearly a step in the right direction," said Chuck Rush, global network architect at McDonald's Corp. in Oak Brook, Ill. "We wanted to get [SVCs] with frame relay, but we never made it there. We think that's the way to go."

PRICE-CONSCIOUS

But one analyst said AT&T's pricing wasn't aggressive enough to lure customers.

"SVCs are something the customer wants, but the carrier can't deliver it cost-effectively," said Steve Sazegari, a principal at Tele.Mac, a consultancy in Foster City, Calif. Sazegari said users will shift from PVCs to SVCs more often as pricing becomes more competitive. "At lower speeds, [SVCs] are 10 times more expensive than a dedicated line," he said.

Rush, who is rolling out a nationwide ATM network, said SVCs could be useful for client/server applications that require additional bandwidth for five or 10 minutes a day.

But Rush said he wants to learn more about AT&T's pricing for T3 speeds. To determine potential cost savings from using SVCs to connect sites, users must compare their monthly PVC charge with the per-minute cost of SVCs at the same speed.

Pricing for SVC speeds faster than 10M bit/sec. are negotiated case by case, AT&T said.

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COMMENTARY

Where everybody knows your name

David Coursey

Despite what you may hear, we're entering a period of more regulation of the Internet, not less. And that's a good thing. It's time the Internet ended its Wild West phase and settled down to being more like Chicago in the 1930s. I'll be Eliot Ness.

I've been thinking about this because some friends are about to offer free E-mail accounts, accessible from their Web site, to anybody who wants one. The catch is that users must read advertising along with their mail. On the face of it, this looks like a great deal: Get your E-mail wherever you find a Web browser — and for free at that.

My friends will let anyone set up as many anonymous E-mail accounts as they want. Even if they could prevent people from getting multiple accounts, it would be in their interest to allow it. More "users" means more advertising "seen" by users. The free E-mail service — speaking only from a mercenary perspective — ought to encourage use, no matter what the consequences.

But where they see a cool public utility, I see a nasty public nuisance. Consider: My friends want 1 million users and figure 99.5% of them will be good citizens. They're probably right, but do the math: That leaves 5,000 various flavors of computer criminals and cretins unleashed with the promise that nobody will ever know their identities. And each of those people can increase his presence on the 'net simply by using more than one free E-mail account. So 5,000 bad guys can easily make themselves look like 50,000 — and who will know the difference?

That's why I'm a big proponent of removing the cloak of anonymity that pervades the 'net. Sure, on the Internet nobody knows you're a dog, but they also don't know you're a stalker, a child pornographer or a member of the Cali drug cartel. I'd like that to change.

We need a law that requires Internet service providers and online services to make an effort to verify the identity of their customers. Ideally, every account or user name would have to be linked to a master account and a human being. Online services would be required to keep user E-mail logs and transcripts for at least 30 days, allowing for the resolution of disputes and criminal investigations.

Online services need to rewrite their terms of service to make it clear that users have no expectation of privacy if a law-enforcement authority shows up with a warrant. Privacy should also be waived if it's necessary to investigate serious infractions of other parts of the service agreement — such as unsolicited pornography, password hackers, stalkers and threats. But the services should be prohibited from reading users' E-mail without proper cause.

And before you think I'm a hard-liner: Yes, there are places where anonymity makes sense. But those places should be self-contained so everyone knows what the rules are and where the privacy cloak ends.

The good news for corporate Internet customers is twofold: First, the Internet would be a safer place to surf or do business. Second, my plan would bring the rest of the world into compliance with what companies are already doing — you know who's getting E-mail accounts, and you're taking reasonable steps to prevent abuse.

Removing anonymity is one area where the rest of the online world needs to do what IS managers have done all along: Take some responsibility for users to help make the Internet a better place.

Coursey, an analyst and consultant, is editor of "coursey.com," an online newsletter available at www.coursey.com. His E-mail address is david@coursey.com.

A line Microsoft can't cross

Charles Babcock

Microsoft's operating systems, applications and Internet tools continue to succeed in the market. Some people believe that with its hands around the Internet's throat, Microsoft has become a self-aggrandizing, self-perpetuating monopoly. I disagree.

Computing is too big and is moving in too many directions at once to be dominated by any one company — even one as skilled as Microsoft. The company's been pre-eminent for a decade, but its profits have reflected that influence for a considerably shorter period. IBM, on the other hand, dominated for two and a half decades, engaging in some well-documented, ruthless competitive practices and enjoying the profits for much of that period.

And what good is it to throw off one form of economic oppression for another? Hasn't Microsoft set its sights on dominating the LAN and the development of applications for the Internet? Doesn't it aspire to offer a corporate database management system as well as the operating system? Isn't it trying to move beyond the desktop? And what's to prevent it from doing so?

Microsoft will do so in some measure, no doubt. But I question whether it can move upward at will.

I believe there's a consensus at most organizations that there's a line that Microsoft shouldn't cross. It's an invisible line. It may even be shifting. But some IS managers think Microsoft should get to the application server and the file and print server — and stop.

"We looked at becoming an all-Microsoft shop, but we decided we're not going to do that," is a comment I heard recently. Granted, it was an IS manager speaking, and IS managers are sometimes driven by the wishes of business managers and end users. But no one I've talked to wants an enterprise based on Microsoft dominance from the desktop to the data warehouse.

The reasons are several and interrelated. They include the following:

- IS managers learned some hard lessons from IBM about the dangers of single-source suppliers. Having fought clear of that influence, nobody wants to exchange one form of technical dominance for another.
- Despite some adroit maneuvering on the Internet, Microsoft's instincts still lie on the desktop. Its big systems competitors, except Digital, are tacitly united in pushing large systems technology whenever and wherever they can take advantage of a Microsoft weakness. They have fought Microsoft to a standoff on the object-oriented front through the Common Object Request Broker Architecture standard, and they united behind Java before its usefulness was clear. Java, with its more network-centric form of computing, brought together former bitter competitors Sun, Oracle, IBM and Netscape, forming an alternative to Microsoft's dominion.
- Microsoft aspires to grow in the database, networking and groupware arenas, but the competition is proving tougher than anticipated. In each of those areas, Microsoft faces companies that made their reputations for a core competency. Pushing them aside has proved difficult. Novell is making something of a comeback. Lotus has proved it can adapt and continue to sell Notes. And Oracle and Informix are so competitive with each other that Microsoft will have a hard time catching up.

I think IS departments once resigned themselves to greater Microsoft dominance, even though they knew of the egocentric nature of the company. Now they have examples of non-Microsoft technologies succeeding and of Microsoft competitors getting their second wind.

Given a choice, they'll make one that limits their dependence on Microsoft to the area where they accept its leadership and competence: the desktop.

Babcock is Computerworld's technical editor. His Internet address is charles_babcock@cw.com.

The Back Page

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Dispatches & Images from the fringes of the electronic frontier

PULL UP! YOU'RE OVER BUDGET!

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Web watchery

Soon there will be business applications for "Web cams," video cameras that show World Wide Web browsers what's happening inside or outside a building.

In the meantime, one of the best collections of first-generation Web cams is at EarthCam (www.earthcam.com). There you'll find links to dozens of Web cams, including the following gems:

- The beach at Venice, Calif.
- Inside the office of former MTV veejay Adam Curry.
- Laundromat machines in action.
- A bird's-eye view of Todtmoos, a quaint village in Germany.
- A Dunkin Donuts shop in Garfield, N.J.
- Inside a cybercafe in Paris.
- Main Street at Disney World.

Buzzwords

- **404: Someone who's clueless. Derived from the Web message, "404 not found."**
- **Link rot: The process by which links on a Web page become outdated because the linked site changes location or dies.**
- **PEBCAK: Help desk shorthand for "Problem exists between chair and keyboard."**
- **Webumentary: A nonlinear, multimedia documentary on the Web.**

Sources: Wired, San Francisco; Hagar and Partners, Marina Del Rey, Calif.

DID YOU KNOW lettuce is 97% water? Or that the human brain is 75% water? You would know your water facts if you visited AquaPenn Spring Water Co.'s Web page (www.aquapenn.com). Your host for a tour of the squeaky-clean world of bottled water is cartoon character Water Dewd.

THE D.S. AT YEAR'S END 1996 has a "computer density" of 40 computers per 100 people, with PCs accounting for 38 of those computers, according to the latest edition of the *Computer Industry Almanac*, published in Glenbrook, Nev. The U.S. computer density is expected to grow to 58 computers per 100 people by the end of 2000, according to the almanac.

■ Send your alt cw contributions to **mbetts@cw.com.** If your item is used, you'll receive a cool T-shirt

Inside Lines

Abort, Retry or Fail this!

If you've decided that you and your PC have irreconcilable differences, find your way to *members.aol.com/spoonr1000/frank/*, where you'll find Tom Murphy's "Illustrated Guide to Bashing Your Computer." It expounds on the joys of partitioning your hard drive with a hacksaw and the effect of a pocket blowtorch on circuit boards.

Beaten by the clock

Oracle recently had to call off its PR dogs. A long-promised announcement of Windows NT data-mart packages was scheduled to take place at a data warehousing conference two weeks from now. The clock struck midnight on the plane after Oracle couldn't wrap up a licensing deal for third-party data extraction tools in time to make the announcement feasible. Sources said Oracle is talking closely with Sagent Technology, a Menlo Park, Calif., company that makes tools for Windows NT data marts. Oracle is now shooting for March.

Unix vendors are all too modest

Considering all the hype Windows NT generates these days, one would think Unix vendors would be dying for some ink. But apparently not some folks at SCO and Hewlett-Packard. Both companies this week are slated to announce 32- and 64-bit application programming interfaces for the next-generation 5.0A Unix operating system. But far from wanting to talk about the interfaces, representatives from both companies seemed more intent on convincing us just how inconsequential the announcements really are. "It's not like its anything earth-shattering, you know," said one spokesman. "It's not a big deal, really!" said the other. If only Microsoft were this bashful!

Eat your heart out, Larry Ellison

SAP Vice Chairman Hasso Plattner, one of the Oracle chief's key rivals on the software applications front and high seas, sailed off with first place and a new record in the recent Sydney to Hobart Ocean Classic off the coast of Australia. Plattner served as skipper of his 80-foot yacht, Morning Glory, and finished the race in two days, four hours, seven minutes and 10 seconds.

Dust off that resume

A networks designer at Boeing last week told fellow ComNet attendees the company will face major headaches if it tries to integrate its networks with those at McDonnell Douglas, Boeing's $13 billion acquisition. For one thing, the two use completely different networking schemes. Luckily, the designer said, the companies can't officially begin integration work until the merger is final, which probably will be this summer. "Hopefully, I'll be on another assignment" by then, he said. Of course, if we printed his name, we could pretty much guarantee that.

Who said Ebonics is the only kind of nonstandard English. Watch for these telltale signs that your children are learning Dweebonics:

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8. They say, "My dad can beat your dad at Quake."
7. Instead of laughing, they say, "LOL."
6. They insult kids by saying, "And you've got limited bandwidth!"
5. They change the answering machine message to "BRB, leave your URL, and we'll TTYL."
4. This is how they ask someone out on a date: "Umm, uh, well . . . see ya!"
3. Calling from camp, your homesick child says, "I'm roaming outside my service area!"
2. When you ask if they've finished their book report, they say, "It's in beta, but it'll ship in time."
1. You're telling them something they don't want to hear. They're saying, "NAK, NAK, NAK" the whole time.

News editor Patricia Keefe doesn't care what language you speak. Send your news tips to her at (508) 820-8130 or patricia_keefe @cw.com.

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